

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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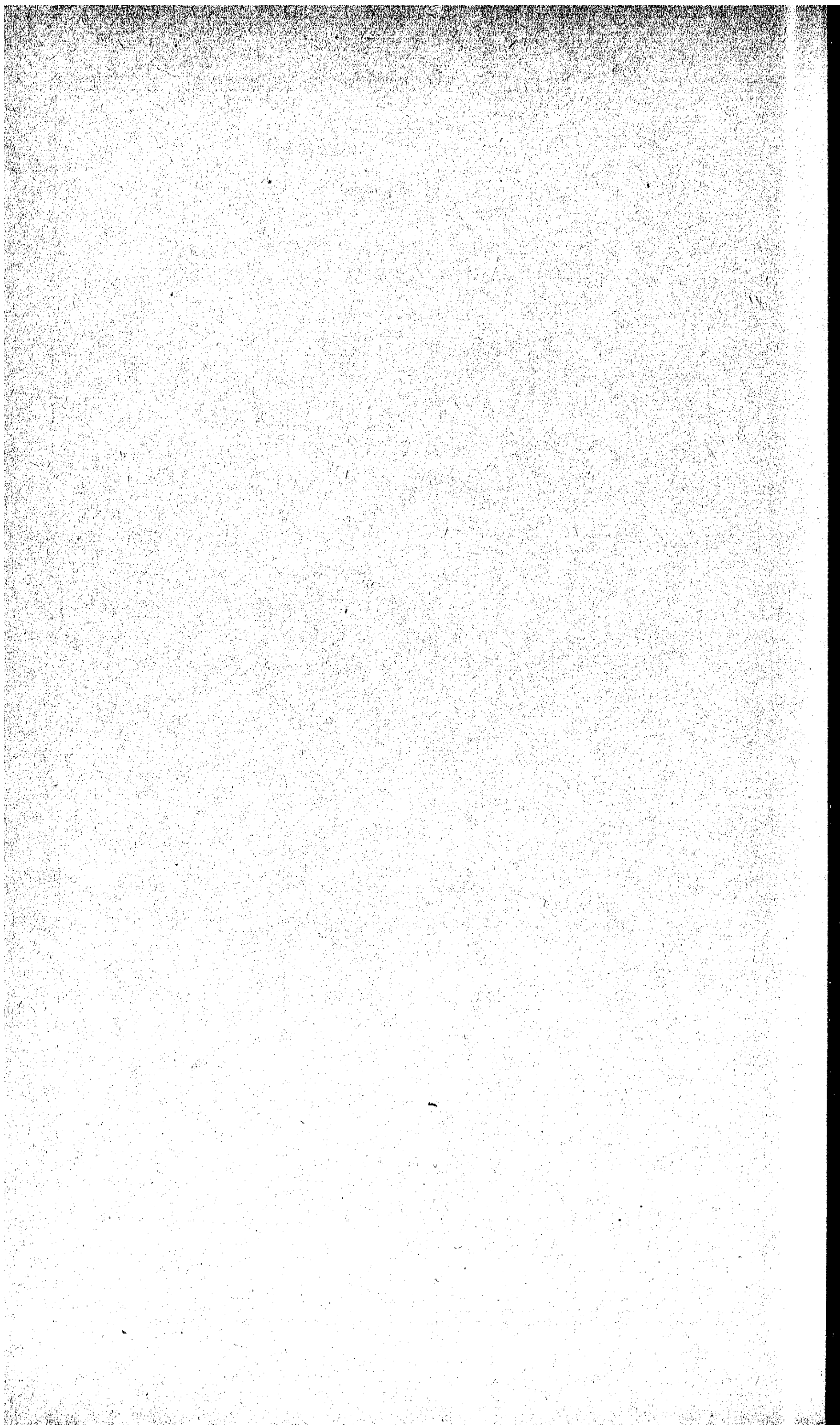
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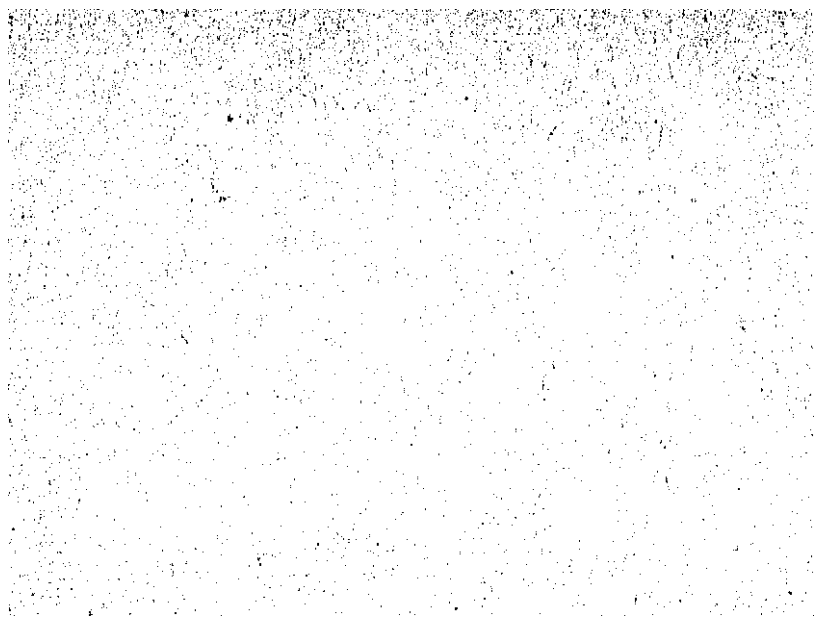
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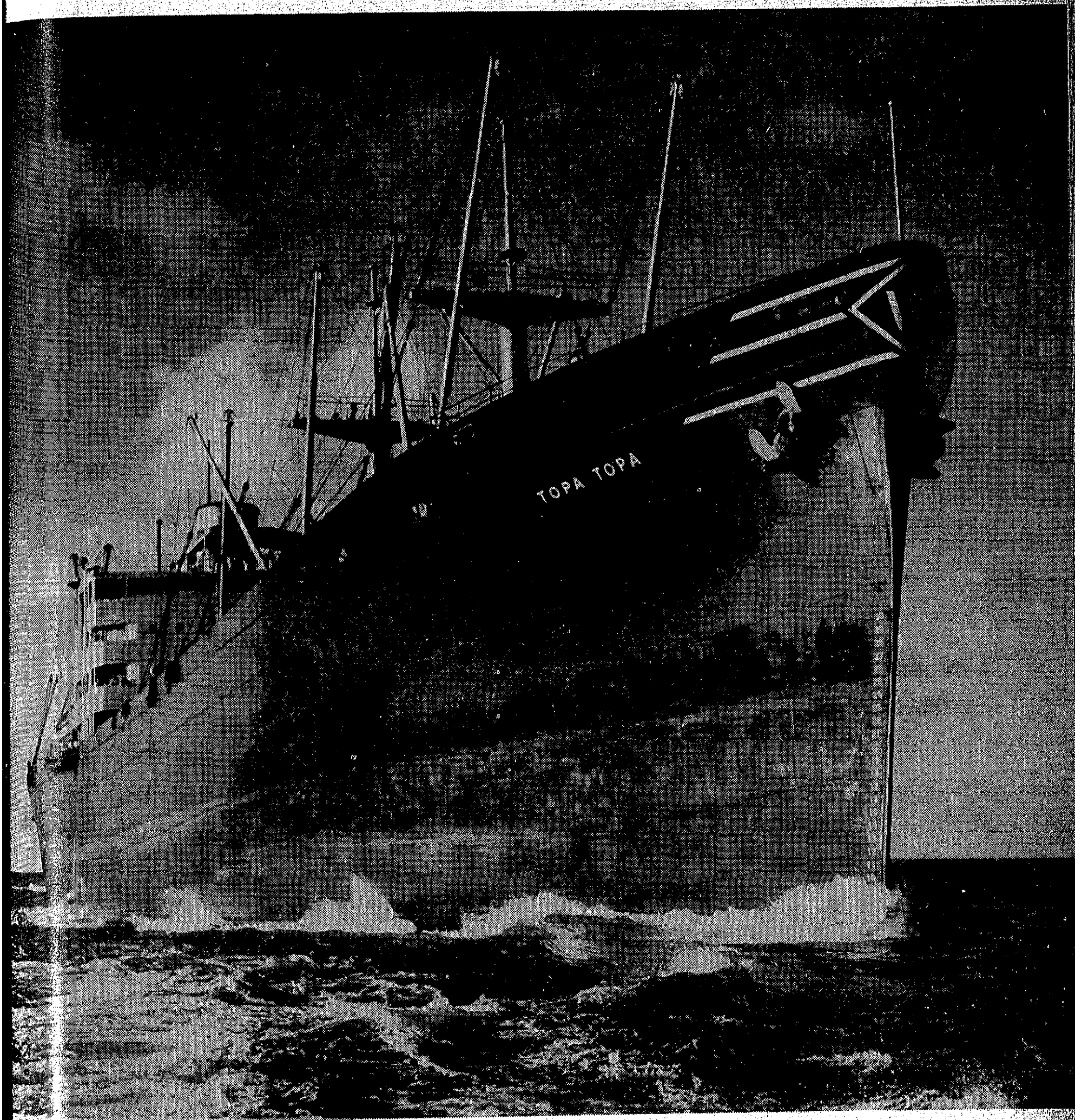
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Mobile, History Reader for the Fourth Grade

The Choctaw Trading House, 1803-1822, by Father Aloysius Plaisance



MOBILE



Courtesy, Mr. R. A. Alvarez

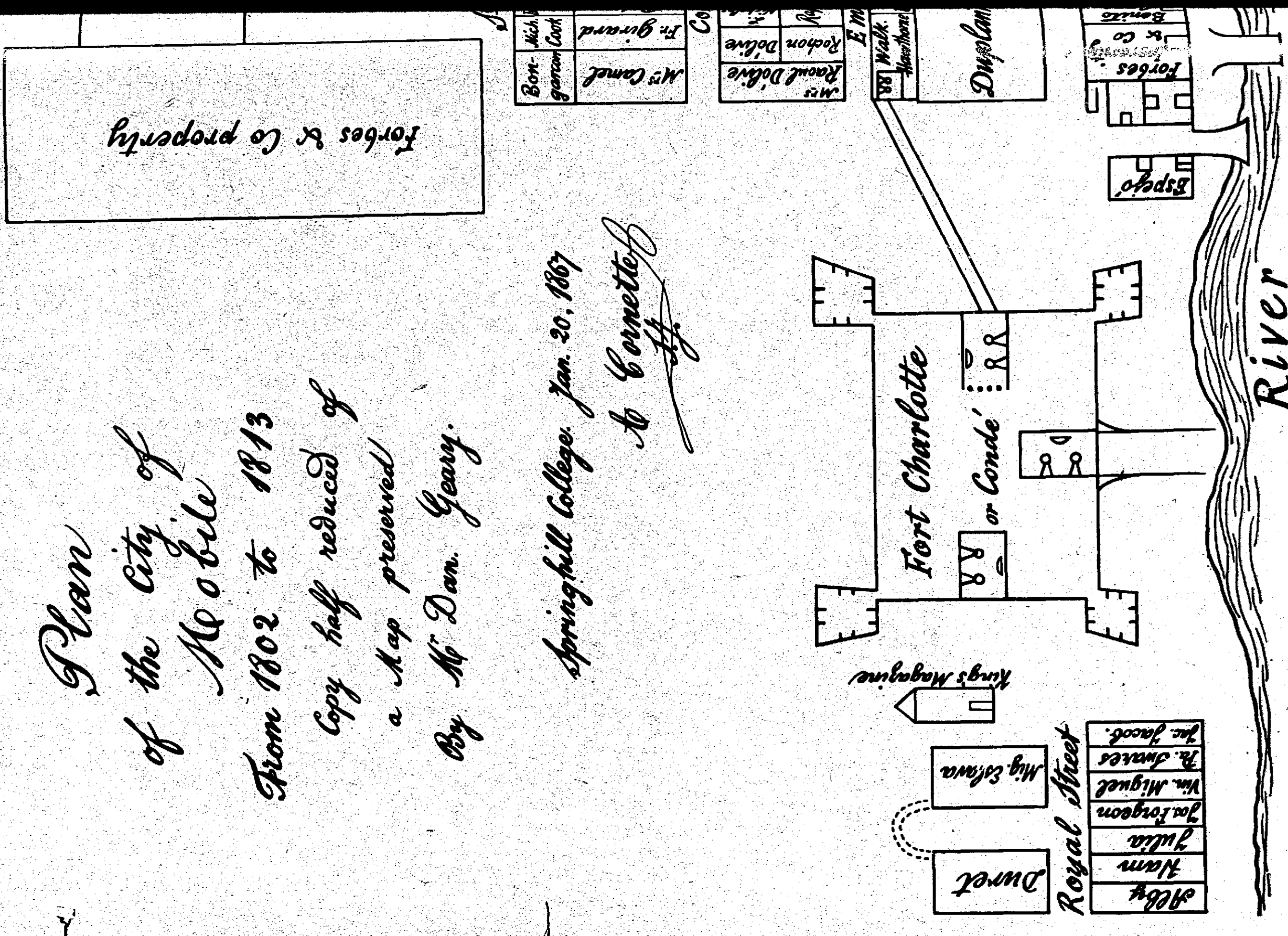
HOME PORT

This Waterman ship is coming up Mobile Channel to the State Docks.

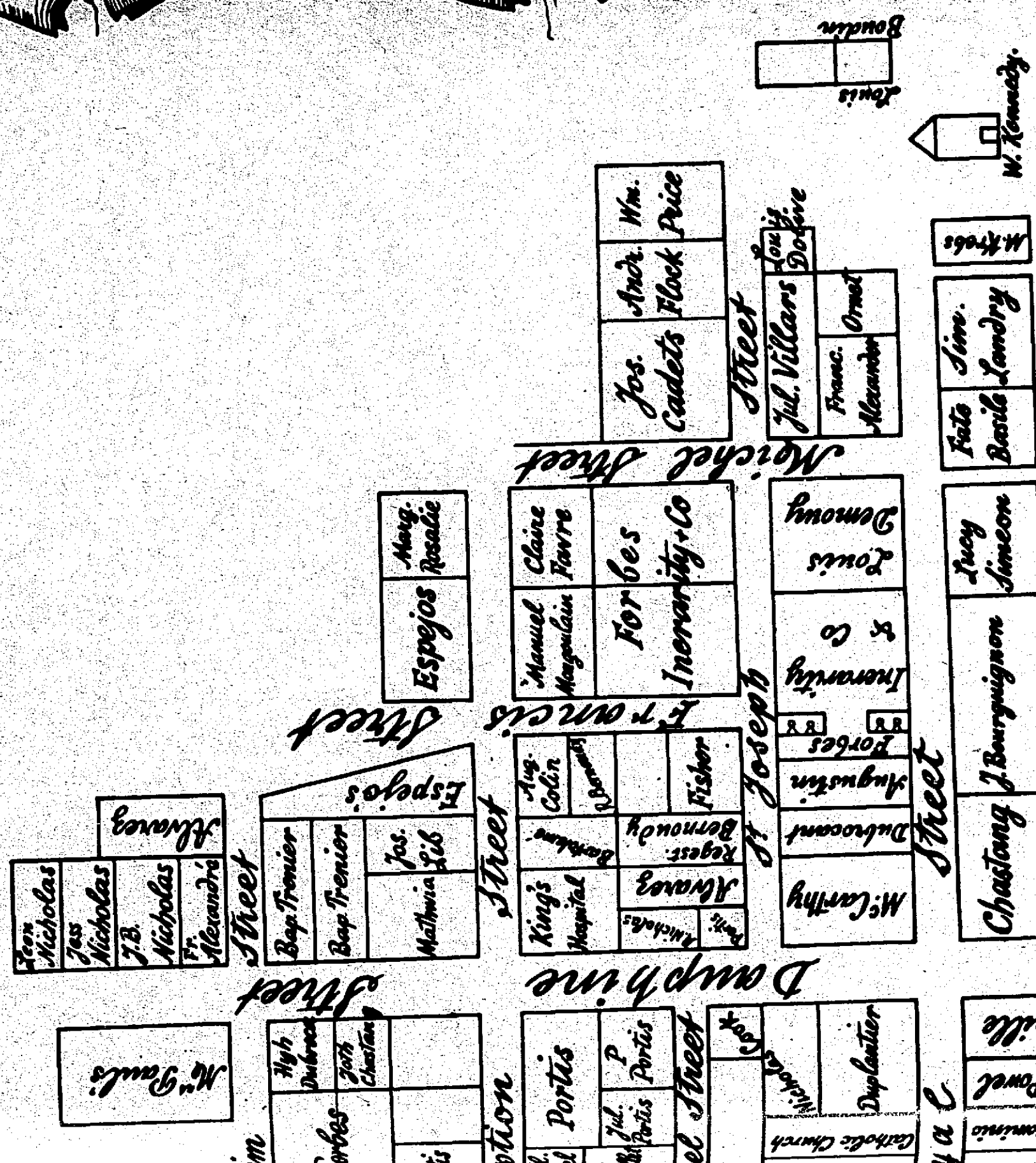
Plan
of the City of
Mobile
from 1802 to 1813
Copy half reduced of
a Map preserved
By Mr Dan. Geary.

Springhill College. Jan. 20, 1867

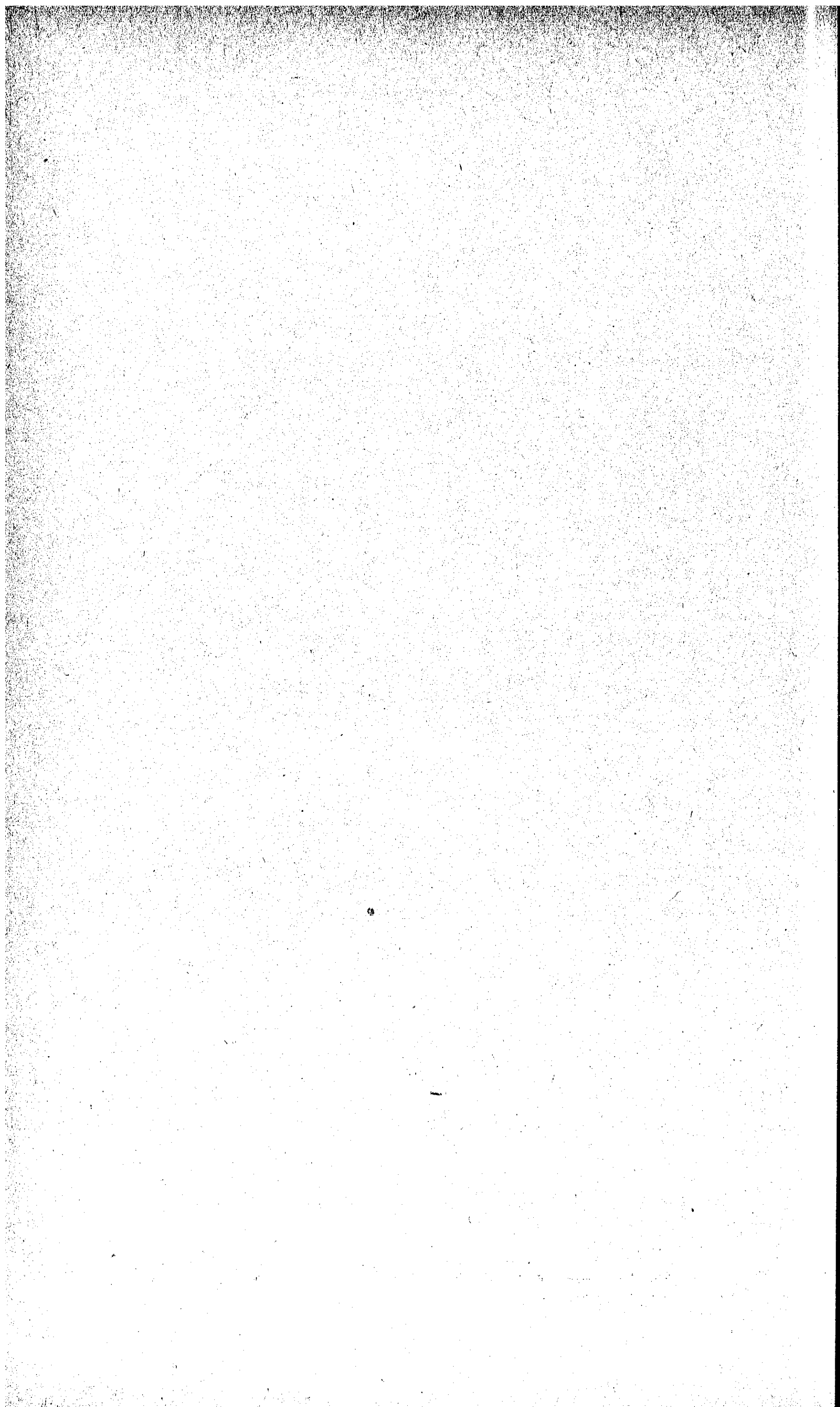
To Cornette
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—Compliments of the FIRST



NATIONAL BANK, Mobile, Ala.



MOBILE

A History Reader for the
Fourth Grade

(Inset here as a part of Alabama Historical Quarterly, is the fourth reader issued for the Mobile public schools and as shown, copyrighted by the Board of School Commissioners. This is republished at the request of the Board at Mobile, in the hopes that the story of Mobile may be more thoroughly disseminated to all the people of Alabama. Mr. R. B. Chandler, Publisher of the Mobile Press Register, kindly furnished the cuts of the engravings and illustrations and to him the thanks of the Editors of the Quarterly are here expressed.)



MOBILE

A History Reader for the
Fourth Grade

MOBILE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MOBILE, ALABAMA

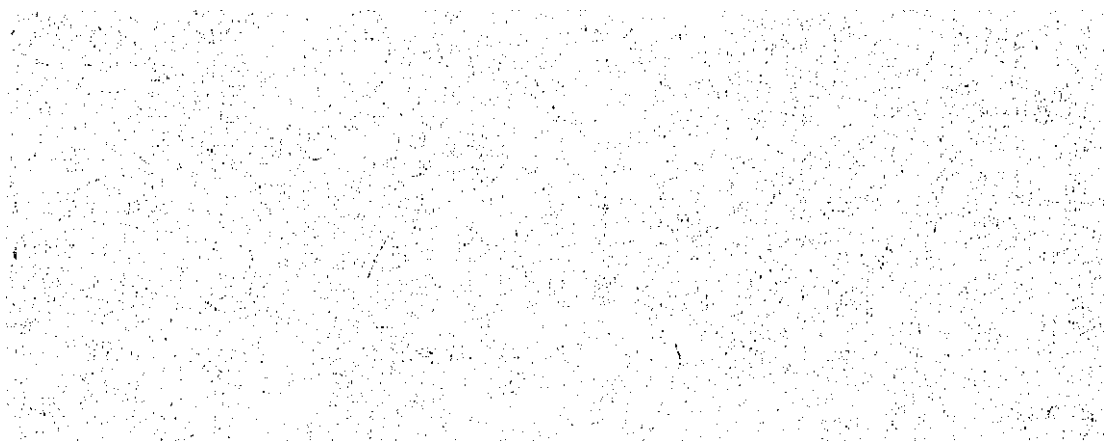
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Mobile, Alabama
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"Yea, I have a goodly heritage."
Ps. 16-6

*"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
who never to himself hath said:
'This is my own, my native land!'"*
Sir Walter Scott

DEDICATION

To the school girls and boys of Mobile
This is your book



Thank You

Without the help of many Mobilians this History Reader would not have been possible. They love their city and have proven their pride in our bright heritage by their splendid co-operation.

Mr. R. B. Chandler, President-Publisher of The Mobile Press Register, was first to advance the need of such a book, so that each child in the schools would have his own story of Mobile. And, generously, he offered to underwrite the expenses of such a book. He is responsible for most of the fine pictures which appear in this issue.

The late Dr. K. J. Clark, Superintendent, gave the History Reader his approval. A group of teachers from the Fourth Grades, where Mobile history is first taught, began the work. Its final phases were left to the undersigned continuing committee.

When the book was ready to go to press, the way was paved for its printing by action of the Mobile School Board: President Arthur Smith, Jr., Vice-President John S. Shaw, and Commissioners Alfred Delchamps, Dan T. McCall, Jr., and Kenneth Reed.

Many thanks are due to Dr. Cranford H. Burns, Superintendent, for his invaluable and sympathetic counsel during the preparation of the book. Also to:

Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History at Montgomery, and to Dr. Toulmin Gaines for critical review of the manuscript.

The Waterman Steamship Company, especially Mr. W. P. Moulton, Administrative Assistant.

The Alabama Power Company, particularly Mr. L. M. Smith of Birmingham, President.

The staff of The Mobile Press Register, Mr. George M. Cox, Executive Editor, Mrs. Dorothy Wilkins, Librarian and especially Mr. William W. Lavendar, Photographer, who made numerous pictures for the book.

Mr. Raymond A. Alvarez and Mr. John F. Glennon, of the Alabama State Docks.

Mrs. Sidney Phillips for authentic sketches of Old Fort Louis de la Mobile and Mobile's six flags; Mr. N. H. Holmes for frontispiece, pictorial map of Mobile Bay, and Surrender of Fort Charlotte; and Miss Lucia Chaudron, sketch of Spanish galleon.

The First National Bank, especially Mr. Albert E. Reynolds, for permission to reprint the Acker pen sketches from the bank's anniversary volume, "Highlights of 75 Years in Mobile."

The Mobile Public Library, particularly Mrs. Emma C. Harris and Mr. R. L. Bell.

Mrs. A. S. Mitchell, Mr. Blake McNeely, Mrs. J. E. Beck; and these others from our schools: Miss Lenore Jones, Miss Vivian Jelks, Mrs. Lillian Stein, Mr. R. L. Booker, Dr. C. L. Scarborough, Mr. Carl Watson, Mr. John Montgomery, Mr. Melvin Hetland, Mr. Jack Ingram, and Mrs. Mary Burroughs.

To all who helped, the History Reader committee wishes to express its grateful appreciation.

Laura E. Simmons

Helen Stanford

Olive Thomley

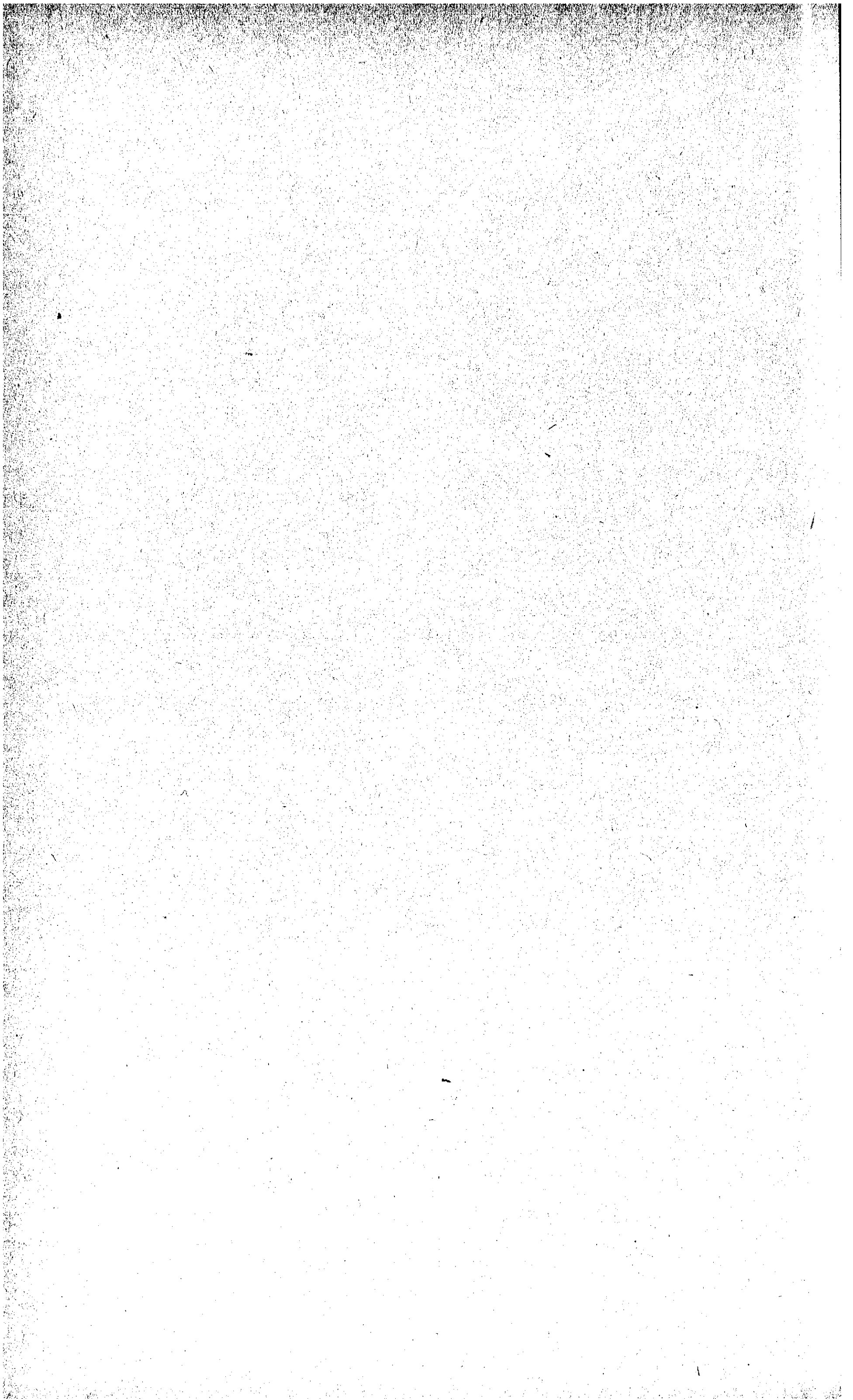
Mildred Wiggins

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Chapter I

Mound Builders and Indians

Have you ever wondered how Mobile began?

This book was written for you, young citizens of Mobile. It tells you how our city began and how it has grown.

Thousands of years ago, the people who lived here were the Mound Builders. We call them Mound Builders because they built mounds near their homes. We can see some of these mounds today. These people lived here at least 5,000 years ago, even before the Indians. That would be about 3,000 years before Christ was born.

The first people to live in a country are called aborigines. The Mound Builders were the first people who ever lived here, so far as we know. We do not even know their real name. We do know something about them from the things they left in their mounds.

You may see some of these mounds in Mobile County and elsewhere in Alabama. At one place, called Moundville, men have dug up and studied the tools and dishes and weapons that the Mound Builders made and used. These tools and weapons tell us something about how the Mound Builders lived.

The Mound Builders were probably wandering



An Indian mound on Dauphin Island built thousands of years ago. Tools, dishes and weapons of an earlier race have been found in such mounds.

Courtesy, Mr. Blake McNeely

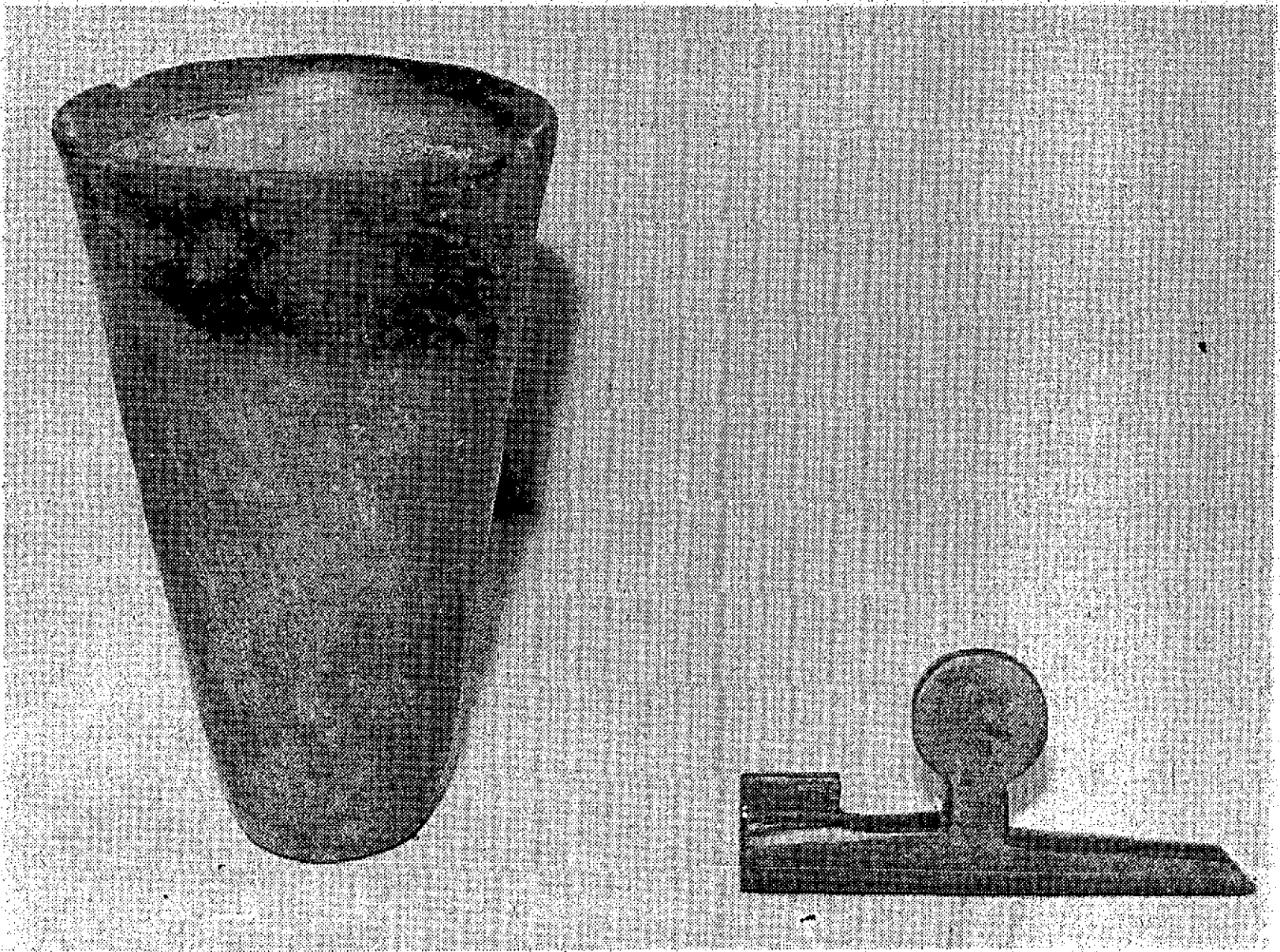
tribes. They lived in one place and then another, looking for good land for their villages. Wherever they stayed for some time they built mounds. We find these mounds along our rivers. Explorers, digging into the mounds, have found weapons and pottery the Mound Builders made and used. From the markings on these things it seemed that they belonged to a very early race of people.

Some of the mounds are round-topped. They were probably built as a place for people and cattle in time of high water. Some seem to have been burial mounds.

The flat-topped mounds were temples for worship. When you visit the Mobile Public Library museum you may see broken bits of pottery, dug up some years ago, near Mobile. Perhaps they were used by the Mound Builders.

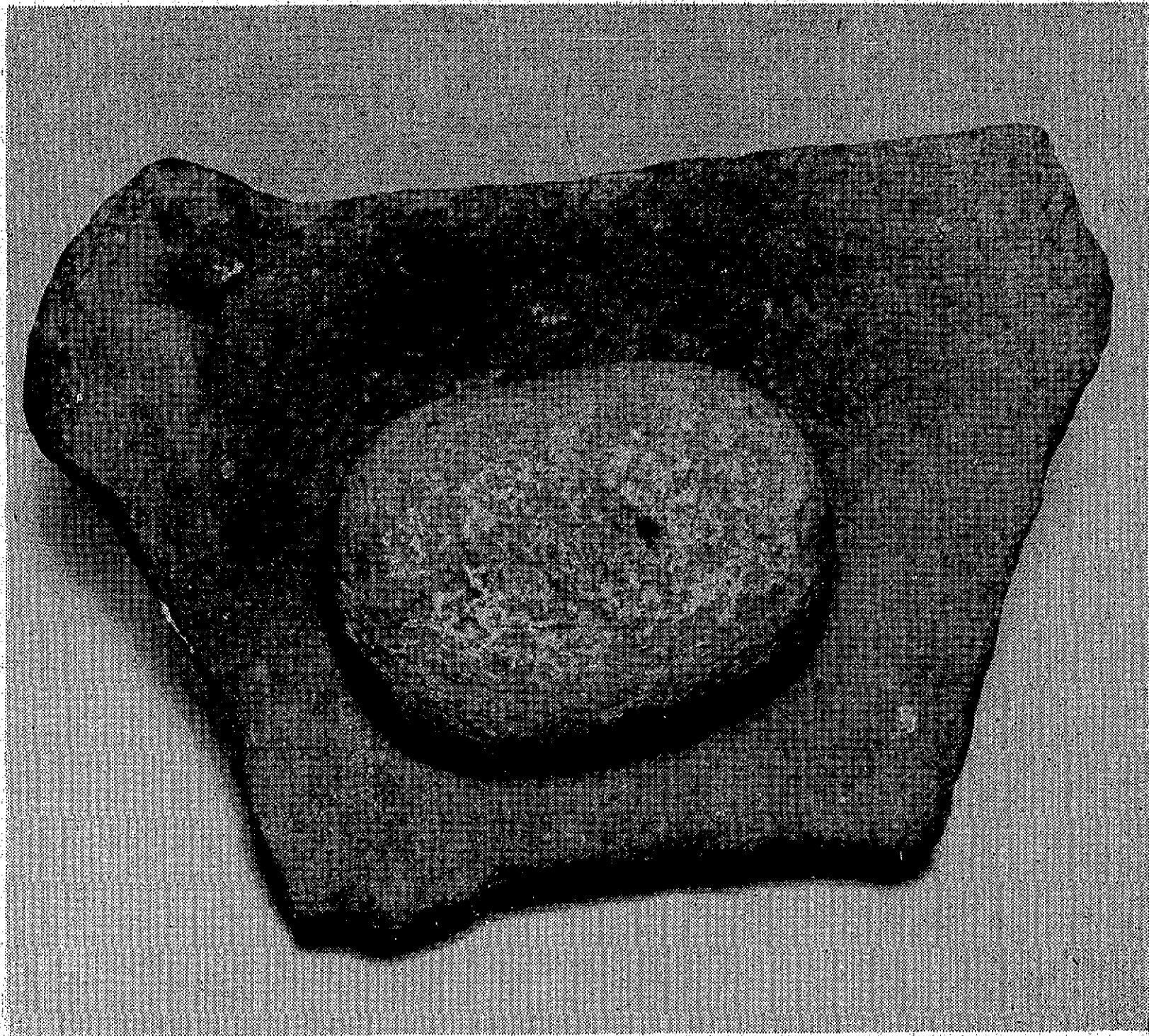
Other mounds were piled up near their camps or villages. These mounds contain broken clay pots, arrow heads, and shells that were thrown away in piles. They are called kitchen middens. In other words, they were the garbage dumps of the tribe.

Then there are oblong mounds like graves, only larger. Some of these you will find at Twenty-Seven Mile



This red clay vase from an Alabama coastal mound is a fine example of Indian pottery. The Indian pipe is the kind used as a "peace pipe."

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library



This mortar and pestle, found in a coastal mound, was used by the Indians to grind their corn into meal.

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library

Bluff, on a river bank, 27 miles up the Mobile River. There are several small mounds in a field on the Bru Place, near Twenty-one Mill Bluff. One has been partly washed away by the river. There is another mound like this on the Malone Place at Georgetown.

A large flat-top mound, about 200 feet long and 30 feet high, is located on the Tensas River just below Mount Vernon. This mound is said to be very, very old. The United States Government thinks this mound is im-

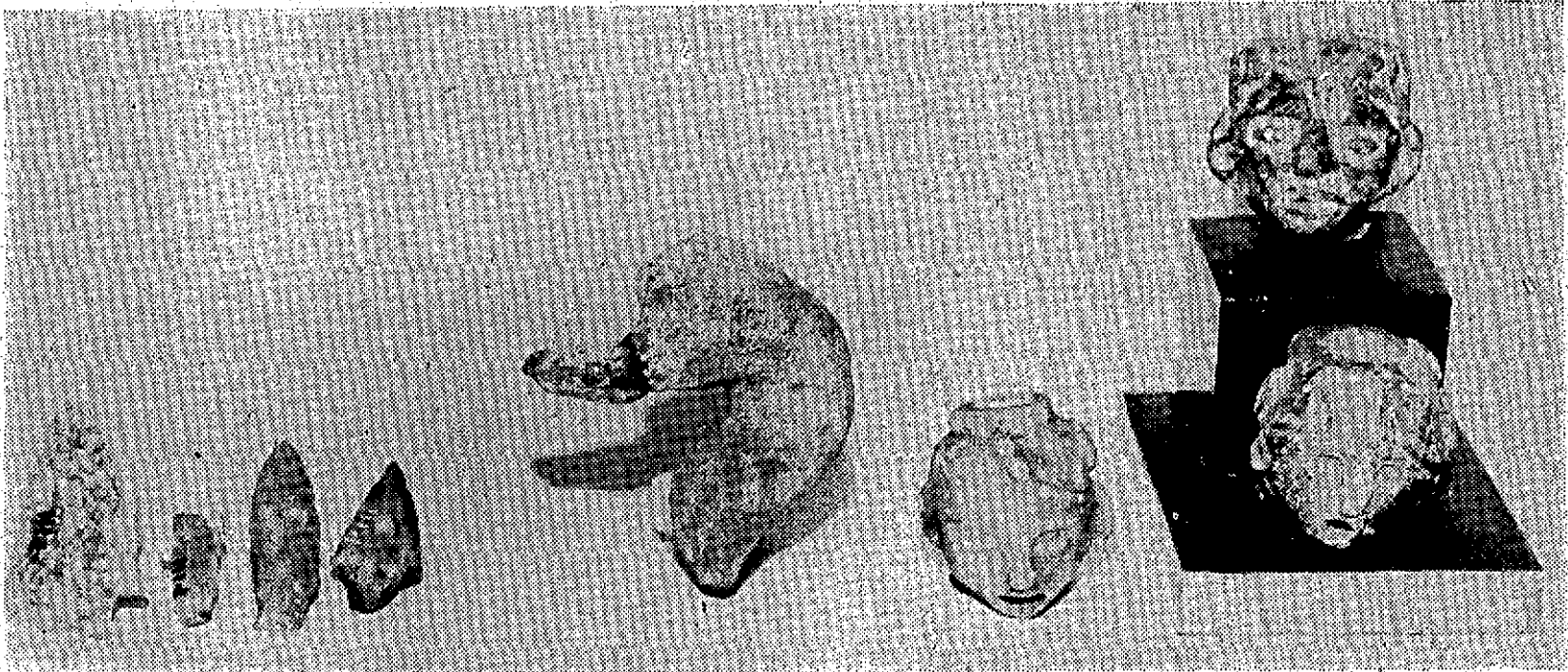
portant. A fence has been built around the mound to protect it.

You will find some shell mounds at Coden on the Gulf Coast of Mobile County. However, not all shell mounds belonged to the Mound Builders. Some mounds were built by Indians thousands of years later. Some may



From early mound of Alabama Coast. Modeled face and figure show Aztec influence.

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library



Arrow heads, knife, and duck head from Dauphin Island mounds. The heads, modeled in clay, from Coden mounds, were loaned to the library by Dr. C. C. Cox.

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library

be just mounds of oyster shells piled up by oyster shuckers in recent years.

Dr. Walter B. Jones, the State Geologist, has made a list of all the Mound Builders' mounds in Alabama. By digging into a mound, a geologist is able to tell how old it is. He can say whether it was built by the earliest people or by later people who have lived here. A trip to the mounds in Mobile County is a real adventure for any boy or girl who likes history.

Now let's skip from the Mound Builders up to 1492, the year when Columbus discovered America. He was looking for India, but he discovered a New World instead. Other explorers followed him. Some of them sailed into Mobile Bay. They found here a race of red men. They called them Indians.

These red-skinned people were quite different from the white men who saw them for the first time. They

looked different and they spoke a different language. They did things in a different way. There were several tribes of these Indians living in Alabama: Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, and Creeks. These Indians lived in villages in the forest clearings. The white men learned how the Indians lived, how they hunted and fished, what clothes they wore, and what weapons they made. Today we are still studying about them.

Some people say that the word "Alabama" means "Thicket-Clearers," for the Alabama Indians lived in villages that they cleared out of the forest. That is a fine meaning for our State's name. Whether people clear away thickets of underbrush or whether they clear away thickets of ignorance, they make this world a better place to live in.

Where Mobile now stands the Indians cleared a place for a village on the river bank. They called it Maubila. That was the name of their tribe. Today, that small Indian village has grown into our city of Mobile. It is now a great seaport and industrial city.

Chapter II

The Spaniards Come

The Mobile you know is a large city where the State of Alabama has built great docks. You can see big ships coming up Mobile Bay to unload. You can see other ships going out with cargoes of American products for all the countries of the world.

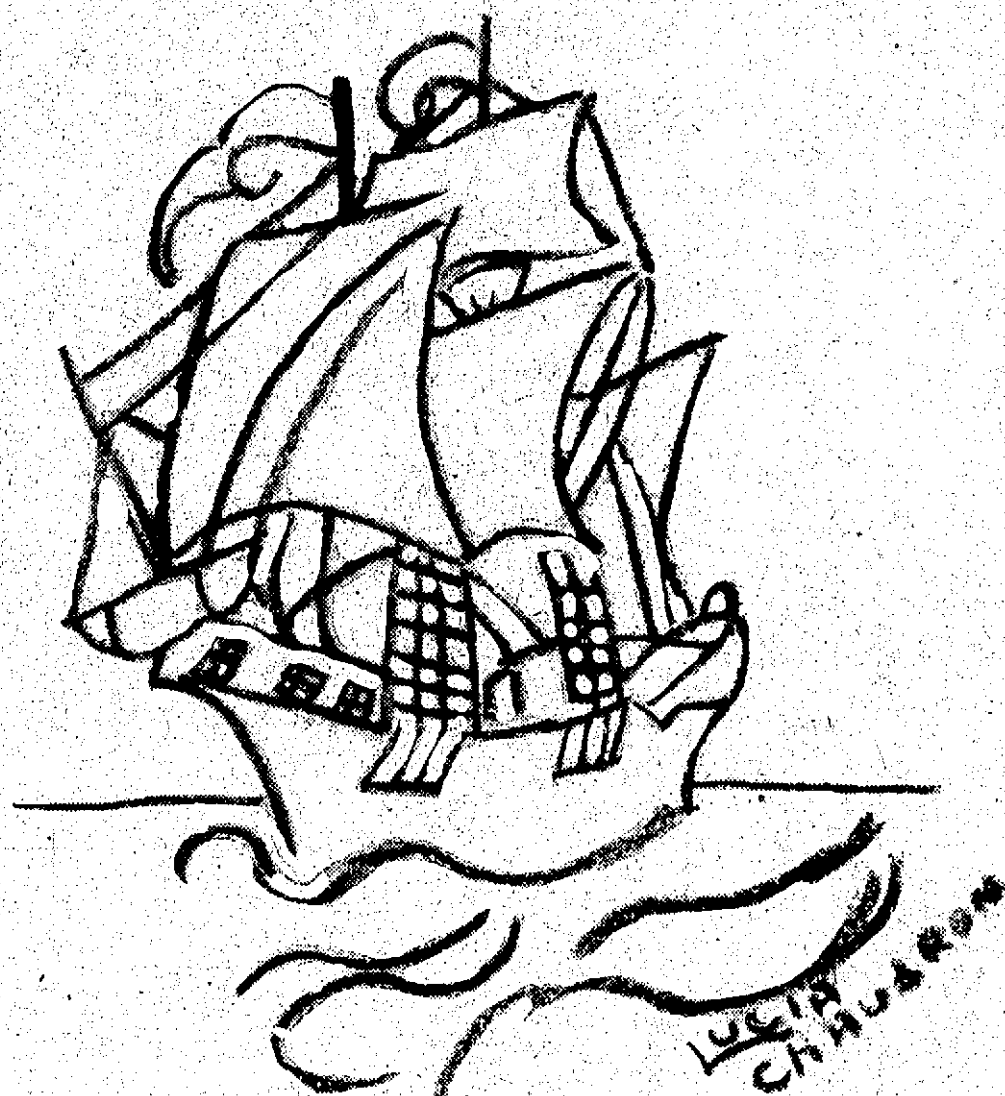
It was not always like this. Imagine that it is a sunny morning in the spring of 1519 on Mobile Bay. Where our busy waterfront now stretches, you see a shoreline with trees growing down to the river's edge. In one place the trees have been cleared away. Here is the Indian village. You see Indian canoes on the water. The red men are shading their eyes from the sun as it rises over the eastern shore.

You remember, that after Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, he went back to Spain to tell the king what he had found. Stories of gold and jewels in the new land were told everywhere. Many daring men heard these stories and wanted to make the same voyage. They formed ships' companies. They set out across the ocean to seek a fortune. They hoped to bring new territory and greater glory to their country, the kingdom of Spain.

Some of these ships sailed into Mobile Bay. The In-

dians were curious. Their own boats were light canoes hollowed out of logs and moved with paddles. Now they saw tall vessels, fitted with bilowing sails, moving up the bay.

These ships that the Indians watched were the expedition of Pineda, the Spaniard. He was the first ex-



A Spanish galleon or large sailing vessel of the kind used by the Spanish explorers in Mobile Bay in the 16th century.

Courtesy, Lucia Chaudron, Artist

plorer to enter Mobile Bay, so far as we know. He steered his ships toward the shore, anchored them, and furled the sails. For days the Maubila Indians watched. On the decks they could see soldiers in armor with helmets and swords. They could also see some men on the ships working at long tables. Each man held a small tool in his hand. Was it a knife? And what was he cutting? The In-

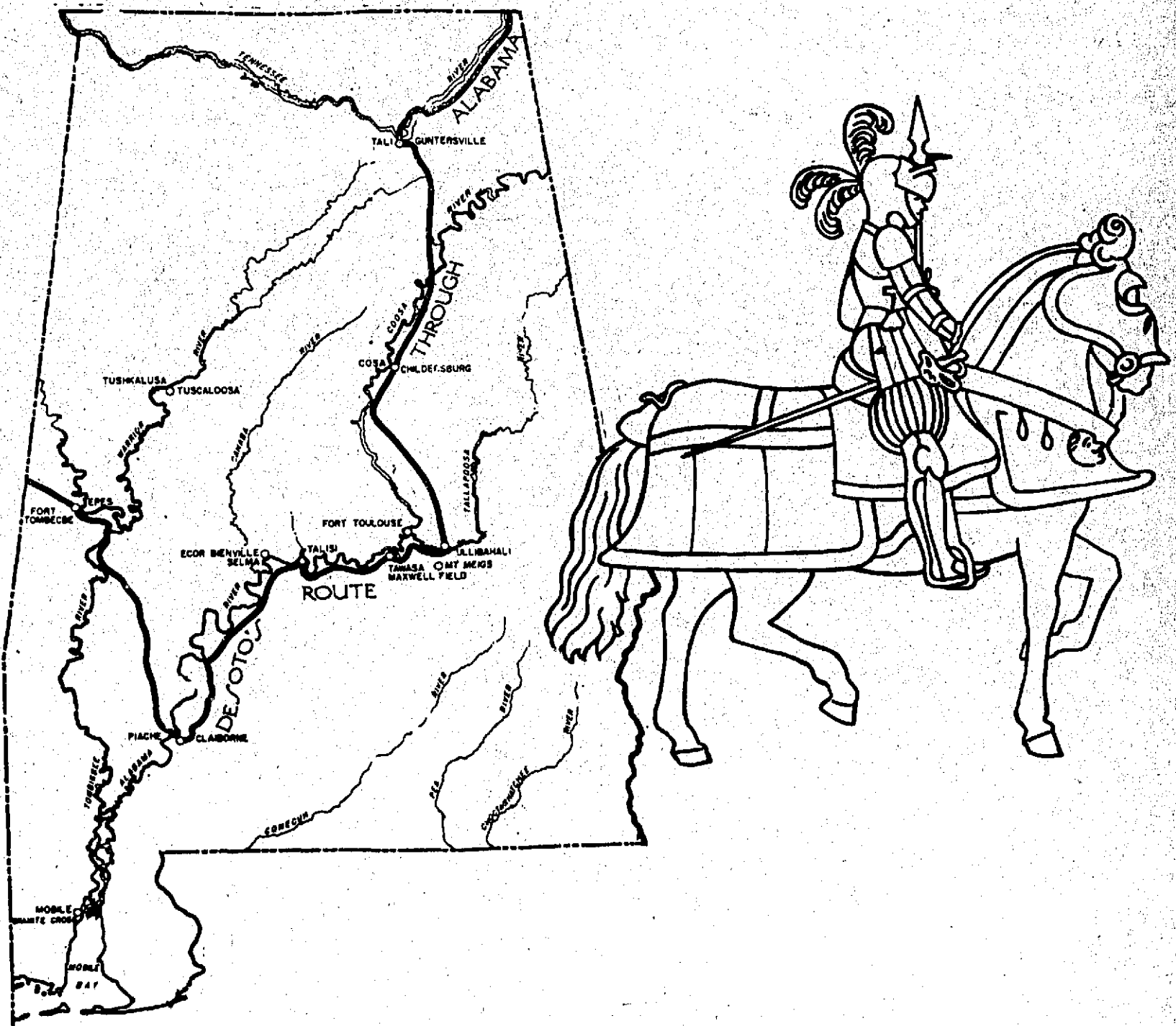
dians did not know that these tools were pens for drawing boards. These men were map makers. They were making a map of Mobile Bay. They asked Pineda what name they should give to the bay. Pineda was a religious man. He gave the bay its first name, "Bay of the Holy Spirit." In his own language he called it **Baia de Espiritu Santo**.

When they had finished, they sailed back to Spain. Pineda showed the map of the bay to the king. It was placed in a royal museum for other explorers to study and to use.

Later, other Spanish explorers came. One of these was Narvaez. He had served in the expedition of Ponce de Leon, explorer of Florida. Narvaez sailed into Mobile Bay in the year 1528. He was trying to get to Mexico. Instead, his ships were swept out into the Gulf and lost their way.

De Soto was another Spanish explorer. He had grown rich in the conquest of Peru. The search for gold was like a fever in his blood. The king gave him permission to go on another expedition in search of more gold. With a group of adventurers he landed in Florida in 1539. They decided to explore the land on foot. They marched through the forests of Georgia and Alabama. They wore iron armor. Their weapons were mostly long spears. It was very difficult to march with such equipment. But they kept on over mountains and rivers.

After many months the Spaniards came to a place just north of Mobile. Here they fought a great battle with the Indians under Chief Tuskaloosa. The Spaniards were defeated. Many were killed. De Soto was badly wounded by a poisoned arrow. He and the few who were left wandered through the forest until they reached the Mississippi River. There he died and his body was secretly



De Soto marched into Alabama about 1539. He entered near Guntersville in North Alabama, came as far south as Claiborne in Monroe County and went out near Epes in Green County.

Courtesy, Mr. L. M. Smith, President, Alabama Power Company

buried beneath its muddy waters. In history DeSoto is known as the man who discovered the mighty Mississippi.

Maldonado was one of De Soto's lieutenants. He had been left in Florida with orders to sail to Mobile Bay a year later. De Soto expected to meet him there. Isabella, De Soto's wife, came to Dauphin Island to wait for her husband. In 1540, Maldonado sailed into Mobile Bay, as he had agreed, but De Soto never arrived.

In 1559, Tristan de Luna, another Spaniard sailed into Mobile Bay from Mexico. His ships brought 1500 men. They tried to build a city. His men quarreled and a hurricane blew in from the gulf and wrecked some of their ships. So this plan failed. The survivors sailed away.

You see that none of these Spanish explorers stayed long at Mobile. They did not succeed in making a settlement. They did not get along well with the Indians. They were explorers, not settlers. The land still belonged to the Indians. It was years and years before the Indians saw another white man. Then the French came.

Chapter III

The Flag of the Golden Lilies

France, in the year 1700, was a great kingdom far away across the Atlantic. King Louis XIV of France was the most powerful king in all the world. He had a splendid court, magnificent palaces, fine clothes, and jewels. He gave many parties. In order to pay for all this he needed large sums of money.

King Louis thought that he could get some gold from America. He planned to claim all of the new country for France. To do this he would need some brave and bold adventurers. The French king found just the men he was looking for in the Le Moyne brothers from French Canada. Pierre and Jean Baptiste were as brave and bold as any king could wish. These young men wanted fame and fortune. King Louis selected them for the American enterprise. He gave them titles of honor. Pierre received the title of Sieur d'Iberville, and Jean Baptiste, the title of Sieur de Bienville. The word "sieur" in French means "lord."

All the plans were made. One day, in the year 1702, a ship sailed into Mobile Bay. This ship was flying the French flag. The flag is called the **Fleur de Lis** because it has three golden lilies on a white background. The day



BIENVILLE (After MARGRY)
b. 1680--d. 1768

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

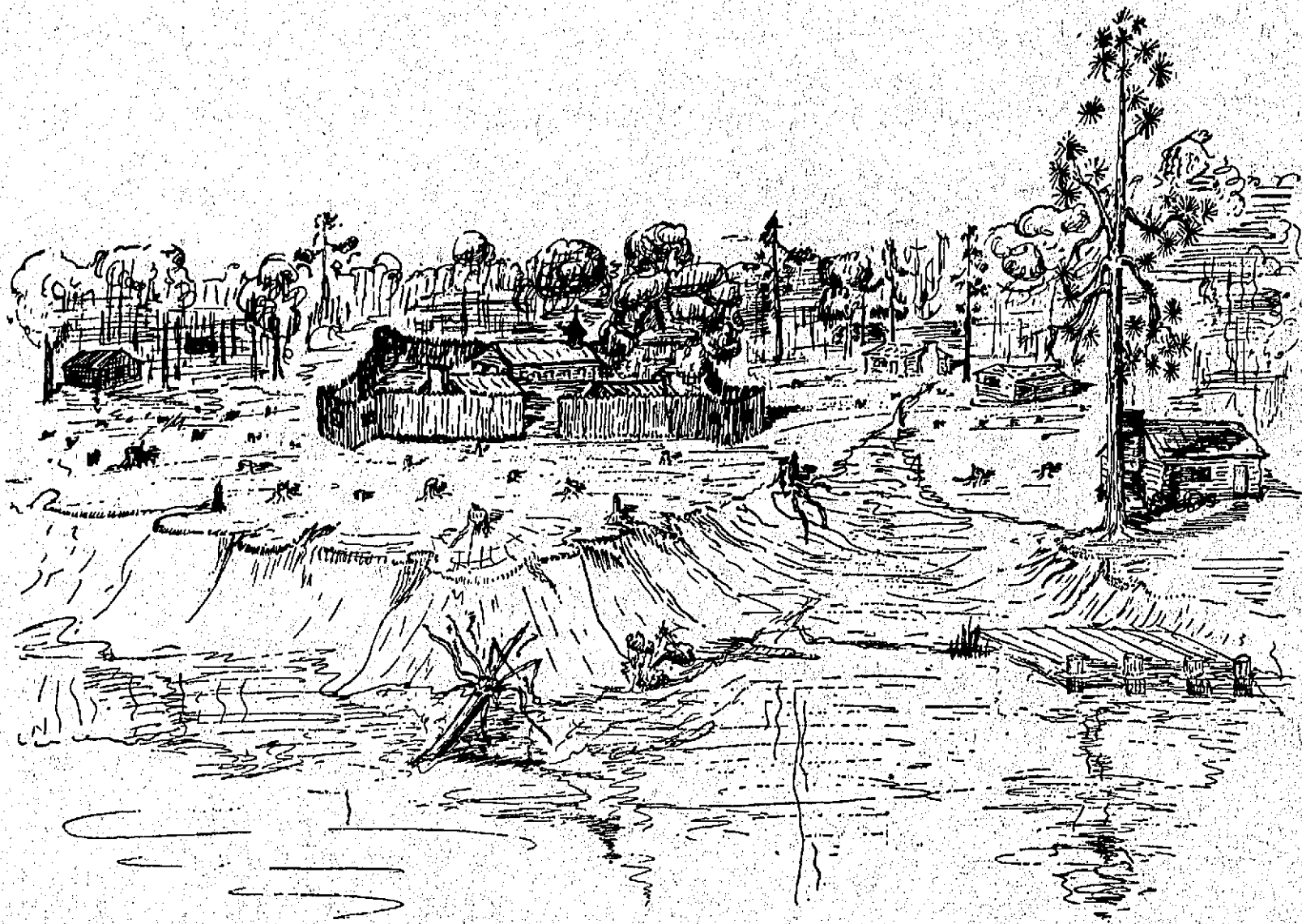
was warm and spring-like. Flowers bloomed in the woods along the shore and birds sang. The Frenchmen were delighted with this beautiful new land.

The ship sailed on, twenty-seven miles above the mouth of the river. There, on a bluff, they picked out a place for a city. These men from France built a log fort. Above it they raised the white flag with the golden lilies. The new city was named for their king and for the friendly Maubila Indians living there. Thus the first settlement of white men in Alabama was named "Fort Louis de la Mobile."

There was game of all kinds in the woods. Hunting proved a gay pastime for the adventurers. The Indians soon found out that the French were not cruel to them. Many stories have been told of the friendship between the French and their Indian brothers.

In 1706, Pierre Le Moyne died of yellow fever. King Louis then made Bienville governor of Mobile. He ruled wisely and well for over forty years. Mobile has honored his memory by naming its downtown square for him. His name and that of his brother, d'Iberville, are found on streets and buildings all over the city. Some of you who read this may be pupils at Bienville School. It, too, was named in honor of Mobile's governor.

All did not go well with the little colony on Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff. The river rose and flooded the settle-



Old Fort Louis de la Mobile. Marker for the site of this fort will be found on the river bank where the Courtaulds plant is now located.

Courtesy, Mrs. Sidney Phillips, The Artist

ment. Bienville decided to move Fort Louis de la Mobile to a safer place. In 1711, the French settlement was moved to the site where the city now stands. As time went on its name was shortened to Mobile.

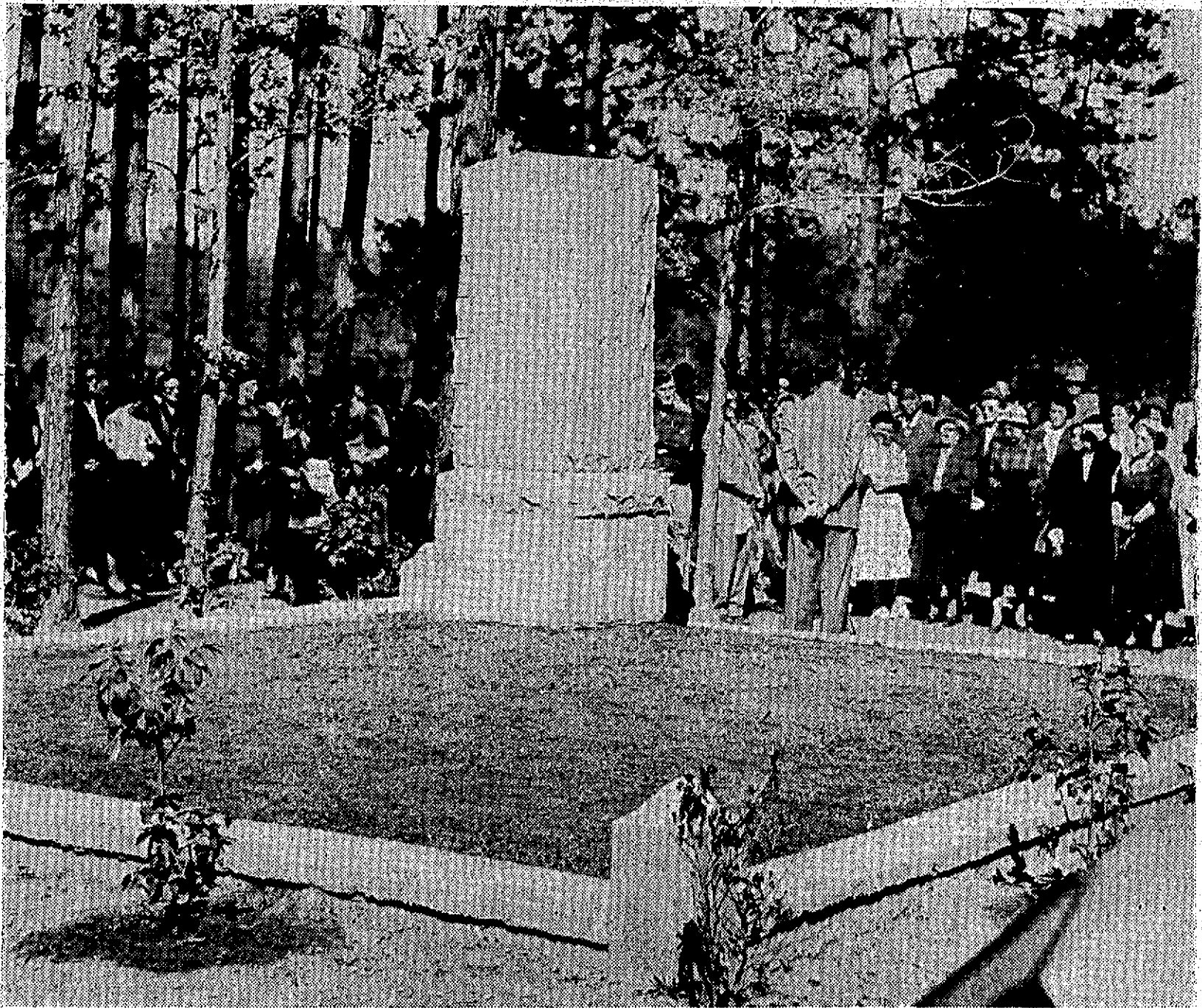
Moving the city proved to be a hard job. Legends tell how even the Indian women helped. They carried dirt in baskets to fill in the streets near the water front.

The early grill work or iron lace in Mobile came down to us from the beauty-loving French people. As they built better homes the French decorated them with hand-forged iron work. Some of our streets still have the

names given to them by the French. Dauphin was named for the Dauphin of France, heir to the throne. Others were named for saints whom the French venerated: St. Louis, St. Francis, St. Michael, Royal Street was once the Rue Royale. Conti was named for a French officer who helped to settle the new country.

The French have always been admired for their polite manners and good taste. They left this as a heritage to the people of Mobile.

The young men in Bienville's expedition wanted to

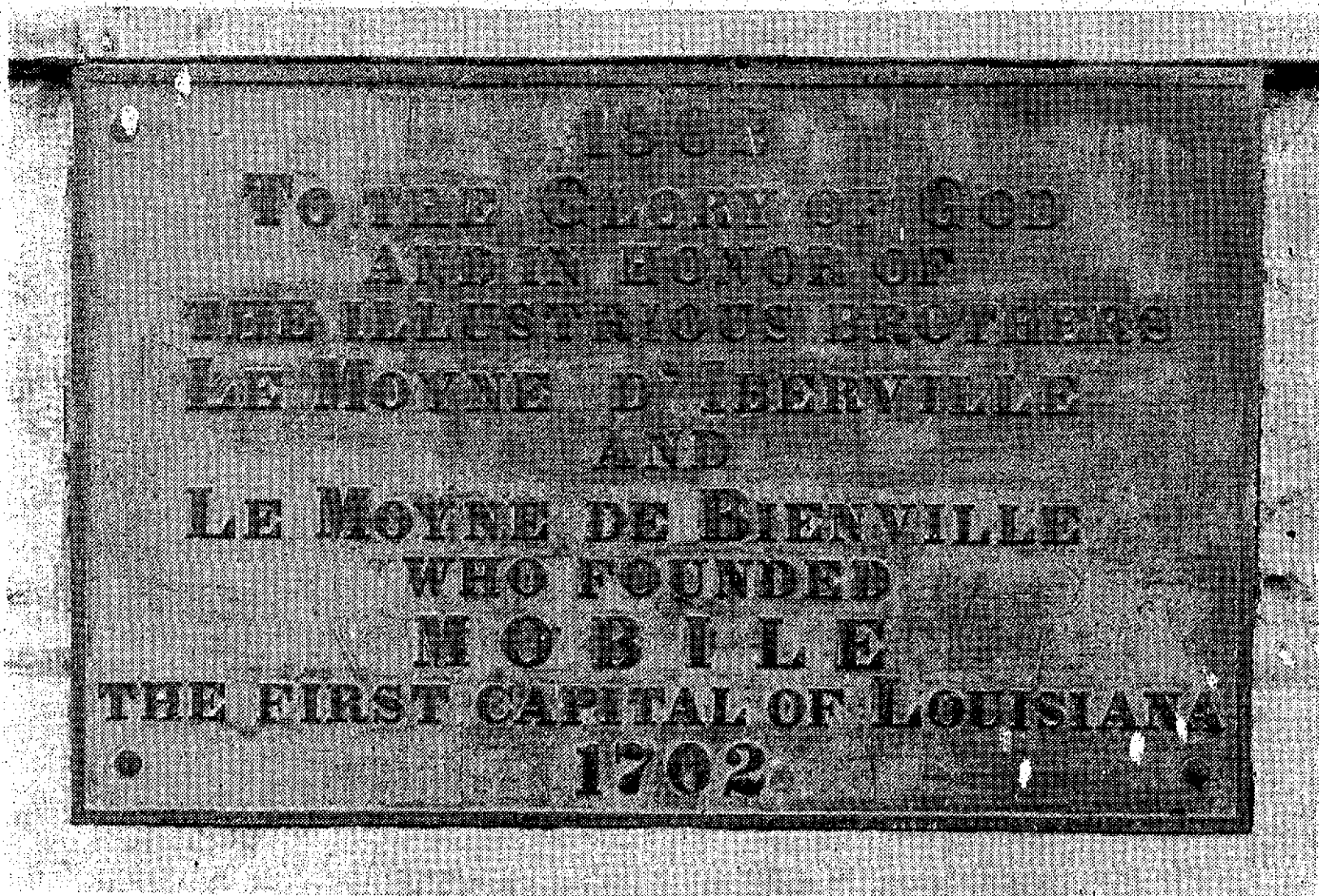


In 1952 Mobile citizens observed the 250th anniversary of the founding of Mobile, at site of Old Fort Louis, Twenty-seven Mile Bluff.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

remain in the new country. Still they found life here rather lonely. Bienville asked the king to send young women to make homes for the settlers. French orphan girls of good character were selected to be brides for the soldiers. These girls came over with all their belongings in small chests or caskets. The girls are known in history as "Les Filles de les Cassettes" or casket girls.

Bienville died in France in 1768. For a long time the English had wanted to settle on the Gulf coast. This caused the French and the Spanish to join together to keep the English out. But the powerful English navy was too strong for them. In the end, by the Treaty of Paris, France gave up most of her land along this coast. Mobile became an English city.



Bronze tablet to Mobile founders on courthouse.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

Chapter IV

English Settlers Start a Colony



Back of Kirkbride House is part of original wall of Fort Conde, oldest masonry in Mobile.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

Once upon a time two little boys were playing marbles. Both claimed the same taw. They couldn' agree, so their fists began to fly.

Once upon another time two big nations started a fight. France and England went to war. Many Indians of

this section joined the French. Together, they were not strong enough and they were defeated by the English.

On October 20, 1763, a regiment of Scottish Highlanders marched into Mobile and took possession. The French people saw their beautiful Flag of the Golden Lilies come slowly down. England's Union Jack was raised in its place. The English changed the name of Fort Conde to Fort Charlotte. This was in honor of England's queen. Would you like to see a part of the wall of this old fort? Then go to the Kirkbride House on Theatre Street and you will find it.

England now owned all of the land east of the Mississippi River. However, most of Alabama was still held by the Indians. By a treaty with the red men, the English gained most of this land. Then a stream of settlers began to pour in. Some came from Old England. Others came from colonies along the Atlantic. The settlers from the coast came on foot. They brought their goods on pack horses over the Indian trails. Some of our great highways today follow those same old trails.

Among these settlers was Lachlan McGillivray. He was a red-haired adventurer from Scotland. He landed in Charleston, S. Carolina. He had only the clothes he was wearing, one lone shilling in his pocket, and a merry twinkle in his eye. A pack train was just leaving for Alabama. Lachlan's sunny smile won for him a job with this band. For his hard work along the way he was given



Chief McIntosh was a Creek warrior who fought with the Americans in the War of 1812.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

a jackknife. He traded it for a rabbit skin. His trading grew until he became a wealthy man. He married Sehoy Marchand. Her father was French and her mother was a Creek Indian. Lachlan and Sehoy became the parents of Alexander McGillivray. He was the rascal who fooled three nations at once. Alexander built up a fortune with his line of Indian trading posts. They stretched as far away as Pensacola.

Another Scot was Charles Weatherford. He married the sly Alexander's sister, Jeannette. They were the parents of the great chieftain, Lamochate, the Red Eagle. His English or Scottish name was William Weatherford.

McIntosh, Alabama, recalls the name of Chief McIntosh. Son of a Scottish trader, this Creek chieftain fought with the Americans in the War of 1812. For his services McIntosh was given the rank of major. A treaty was drawn up giving Creek lands to the white man, but 36 Creek chiefs refused to sign it. McIntosh led the Creek allies who signed. The other chiefs made a law punishing with death those who handed over Creek lands to the Americans. Sentence of death was formally passed on McIntosh and a party of warriors carried it out in 1825.

Then came young Musgrove who married the little princess, Consaponaheso. She was also known as Mary Musgrove. Her gentle wisdom kept peace between the English and the Indians.

The English divided their lands into plantations. They raised rice, tobacco and indigo. At that time not much cotton was raised. It took too much time and work to separate the seeds from the lint. They loaded their little ships with tallow, bear's oil, tar and pitch, myrtle-wax, and other things. These products were sent to England. They were exchanged for goods that could not be made in the new land.

In 1780, the Union Jack came down and the Spanish flag took its place. At that time we were at war with England. We were fighting for our independence. Our leader, General George Washington, made a plan with the Spaniards in New Orleans. Its purpose was to take Mobile away from the English. Galvez, with two thousand Spaniards, landed at Choctaw Point. The English could not hold Fort Charlotte. Once again Mobile's government changed. It became a Spanish city.

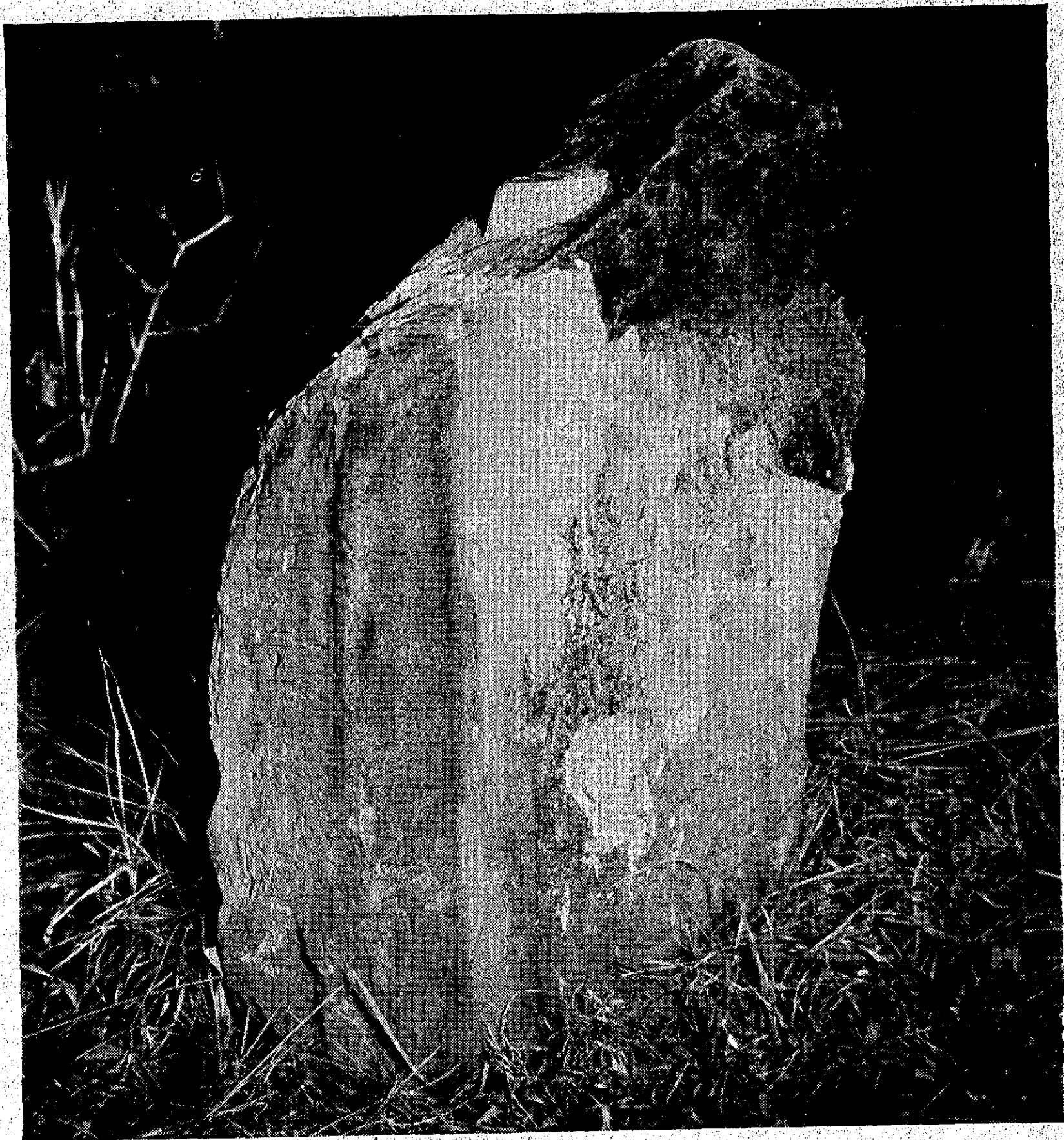
Chapter V

Ellicott's Stone Marks Boundary

Nations, like small boys, have always quarreled over boundary lines. Fighting over a boundary line was an old story when Mobile was young. All the great nations in Europe wanted Mobile and the land around it. These nations, England, France, and Spain, were called the Great Powers. At times Mobile people hardly knew to what country the city belonged.

Pensacola did not know that Fort Charlotte had surrendered to Galvez. Spanish troops started from Pensacola toward Mobile. They were coming to help take the city. They marched as far as the shore of Mobile Bay. Messengers met them a short distance north of our Cochrane Bay Bridge. The messengers brought news of the fort's surrender. The Spaniards halted, made camp, and later built a fort. This was done to hold the land against another English attack. Traces of this Old Spanish Fort still remain. Go about a mile north of the east end of the bridge to find them.

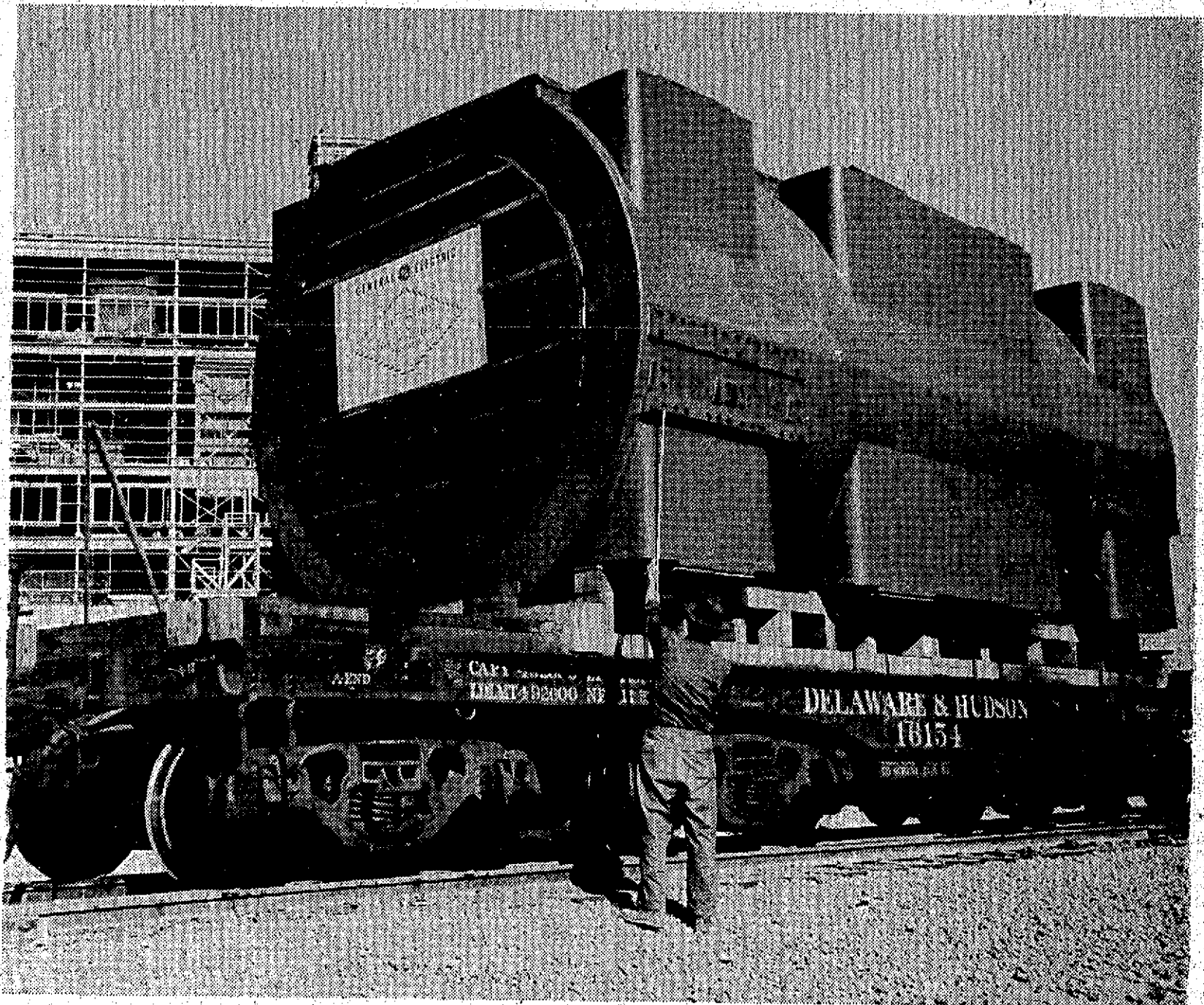
When Spain took over, many disputes arose about boundary lines. The Spanish colonies extended to the south. The United States territory extended north. General Washington was a surveyor. He thought the land



Marker placed in 1799 on Mobile River to set boundary between lands of Spain and America. On the South side are the Spanish words "Dominios de S. M. Carlos IV. Lat. 31°—1799."

should be surveyed to settle these quarrels. Thomas Pinckney was sent to Spain to talk it over with that country. The two countries agreed that the 31st parallel should be the boundary.

The surveyors started far apart and worked toward each other. The Spaniards came up from the south. Our



Giant stator arrives to be installed at one of the generating units at Barry Steam Plant near Ellicott's Stone.

Courtesy, Mr. L. M. Smith, President, Alabama Power Company

men started in the north and worked toward the south. They came together where the Mobile River is crossed by the 31st parallel. They set a stone marker on the river bank. It was called "Ellicott's Stone." Andrew Ellicott was the surveyor for the United States. On the north side of the stone is carved "U. S. Lat. 31° 1799." On the south side is carved "Lands of His Majesty, Charles IV." Charles IV was then the Spanish king.

It would be interesting to see Ellicott's Stone. It is north of Mobile near the Barry Steam Plant of the Ala-

bama Power Company. Some of the readers of this book are pupils of Ellicott School. The school was named for this noted surveyor.

The Spanish governor lived in Pensacola. Spanish officers were appointed for Mobile. The leader was called an "Intendent." The judge was the "Alcalde." Don Miguel Eslava was the king's treasurer. The name Eslava Street came down to us from the Spanish rule. Some of the places owned by Mobilians today are old Spanish land grants.

A few years later we were forced to fight our second war with England. Spain was willing to join her old enemy to fight us. We won against both countries. On April 13, 1813, General James Wilkinson arrived from New Orleans. He sailed up Mobile Bay and took the city for the United States. At last over the city waved our own Red, White, and Blue.



Mobile becomes American Territory.

Courtesy, Mr. N. H. Holmes, Delineator

Chapter VI

American Pioneers Arrive

Do you know who pioneers are?

Pioneers are those hardy people who go ahead to a new land to prepare a place for others.

The Indians who were the first people that we know of in this country, were aborigines. We would not call them "pioneers." We know that the French were really the first white men who tried to settle in Alabama, but we do not call them pioneers. Perhaps it is because the French did not stay on in possession of these lands. What is now Alabama was part of 530 million acres in the South and West which President Thomas Jefferson bought for the United States from France. All of this land cost a total of 27 and one-fourth million dollars or about 4 cents an acre. Can you think how important this was? This buying of half a continent is known in history as the Louisiana Purchase.

So the Americans were truly the pioneers. After Spain and England and France gave up these lands, the Americans moved in. They came by the long hard route from the Atlantic coast and the mountains. When we speak of our pioneers today we mean the Americans who settled in Alabama to stay.

Alabama was largely Indian country. It was dangerous to travel, so the custom grew for a number of people to travel together for protection. Some of the pioneers walked. Some rode horseback. You would have thought it strange to see the women, wives and daughters, riding on pillions or cushions behind the men's saddles. Some families were lucky to have covered wagons drawn by horses or by oxen yoked together. Others loaded their household goods on pack horses. Often there was no road. A path had to be hacked through the wilderness. Streams had to be forded. Sometimes rudely made flatboats floated a party downstream.

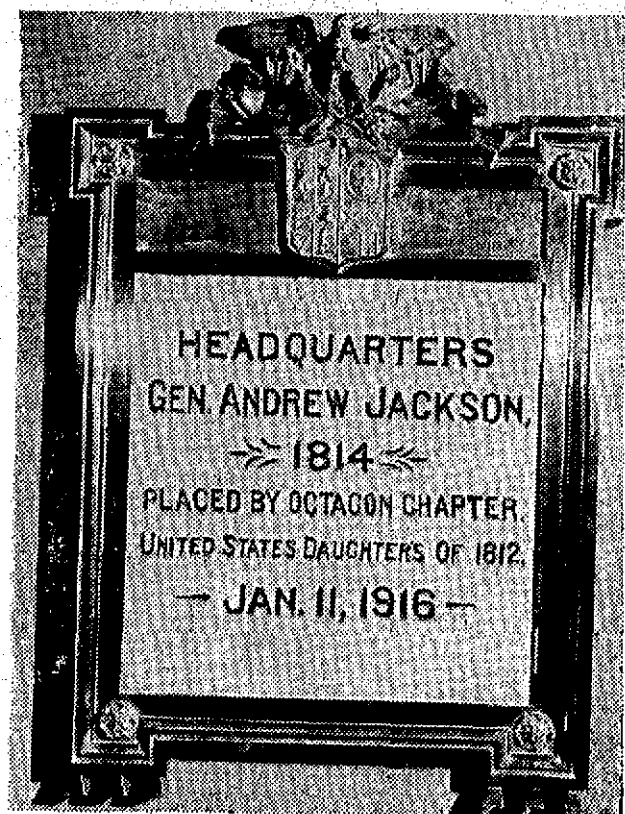
When the pioneers camped at night they built a fire to cook supper. They lighted pine torches to see by and to frighten off the wolves and forest animals. Making a fire was not so easy as it is today when we just strike a match or use a patent lighter. Neither matches nor lighters had been invented. Fires were started by rubbing two dry sticks together or by striking sparks from flint rock with an iron. Supper was a simple meal. Grown-ups and children ate cornbread, called in those days, ash cake or sometimes johnny-cake. Sweet potatoes were baked in the coals. Meat was cooked on sticks over the fire. Oh, how good it did smell! It tasted even better.

While they ate and rested, the campers told stories about the homes they had left, or about what they heard of the new country to which they were going. Some one

in the party was sure to have a banjo or a mouth harp. The people played, sang, perhaps danced a jig, or had a square dance together. Many old American tunes and dances have come down to us from the pioneers. One of the favorites we know now was "Oh Susannah."

It was during this early American period, 1813-14, that the Creek Indians began their wars with the white pioneers. The Creeks wanted to drive the settlers away from the hunting grounds. Chief Red Eagle attacked Fort Mims, near Stockton, Alabama. All but a few of the 500 white settlers were massacred. General Andrew Jackson marched down from Tennessee with a large army and joined the Alabama troops. He fought and won many battles. After a final battle at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River, he conquered the Creeks. This was March 27, 1814.

The mighty Red Eagle came into camp and surrendered. Andrew Jackson called him the bravest man he had ever known.



*General Jackson Plaque
in Battle House.*

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler



Canoe fight. From mural by J. Augustus Walker in City Hall.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

Chapter VII

Alabama Becomes a State

We all like to celebrate our and our friends' birthdays.

Did you know that your state of Alabama has a birthday, too? Alabama became a state December 14, 1819. Whenever a state is formed and admitted into the Union, a new star is put into the flag. Alabama was the twenty second state to be admitted into the United States. The star that stands for Alabama is on the third row from the top. That same year, 1819, Mobile began its history as an important port and Alabama's only seaport.

Many people early in the nineteenth century wanted to buy land and settle in or near Mobile. Samuel Dale, a brave pioneer lad, guided wagon trains to this part of the country. Sam Dale also helped Andrew Jackson to fight against the Indians. After a while the United States Government gave good lands in the west to these Indians. Most of the Indians moved out on that land. Those who remained signed a treaty of peace.

Now the country was safe for white people to settle. Everyone wanted to buy large tracts of land. Even the very richest land sold for ten cents an acre. Today this

same land is worth many times that amount. Cypress, pine, maple, oak, and gum grew tall and thick. One tree, today, is sometimes worth several hundred dollars.

When Alabama became a state the United States Government set aside land for the schools. Every sixteenth section of land was set aside for use of the schools. Mobile County school still own 22,500 acres of these sixteenth section lands. Cared for by a school forester, these Mobile County lands bring in money for the schools.

Some of the early settlers cleared their large tracts of land and planted cotton. Mobile grew with the success of the cotton industry. Truly, "Cotton was King" and Mobile was the capital city of the cotton empire. River steamers brought cotton from the plantations miles away.

The wharf was piled high with thousands of bales. Large boats could not get close enough to the wharf to load. The channel in the river was too shallow. Small boats had to take a few bales at a time to large boats anchored below at the entrance of Mobile Bay. John Quincy Adams was then the President of the United States. In 1826, he allotted \$10,000 to Mobile to dredge a deeper channel. After the new channel was dredged, large ships could come up to the city and unload and load their cargoes. Cotton and lumber were shipped to England and to France as well as to cities in America.

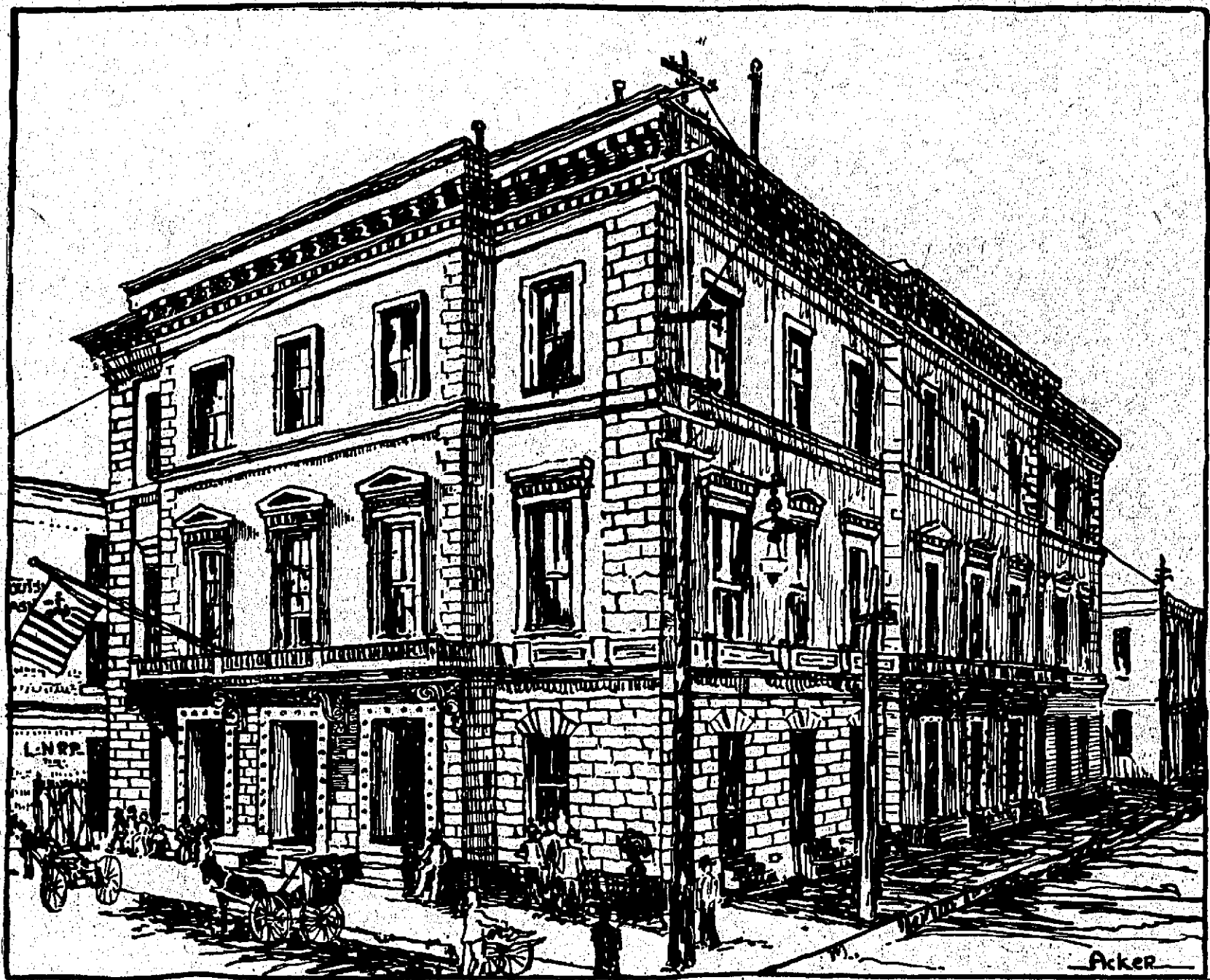
Mobile was now more than a century old. On January 20, 1814, it had become an incorporated city.

By 1850, cotton was selling so well that many Mobile people grew wealthy. They built mansions and



Madame Octavia Walton LeVert, brilliant social leader of Mobile in the Golden Age before the War of the Sixties. Great people of many countries visited her home at 153 Government Street. She was called "The most charming woman in the world."

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library

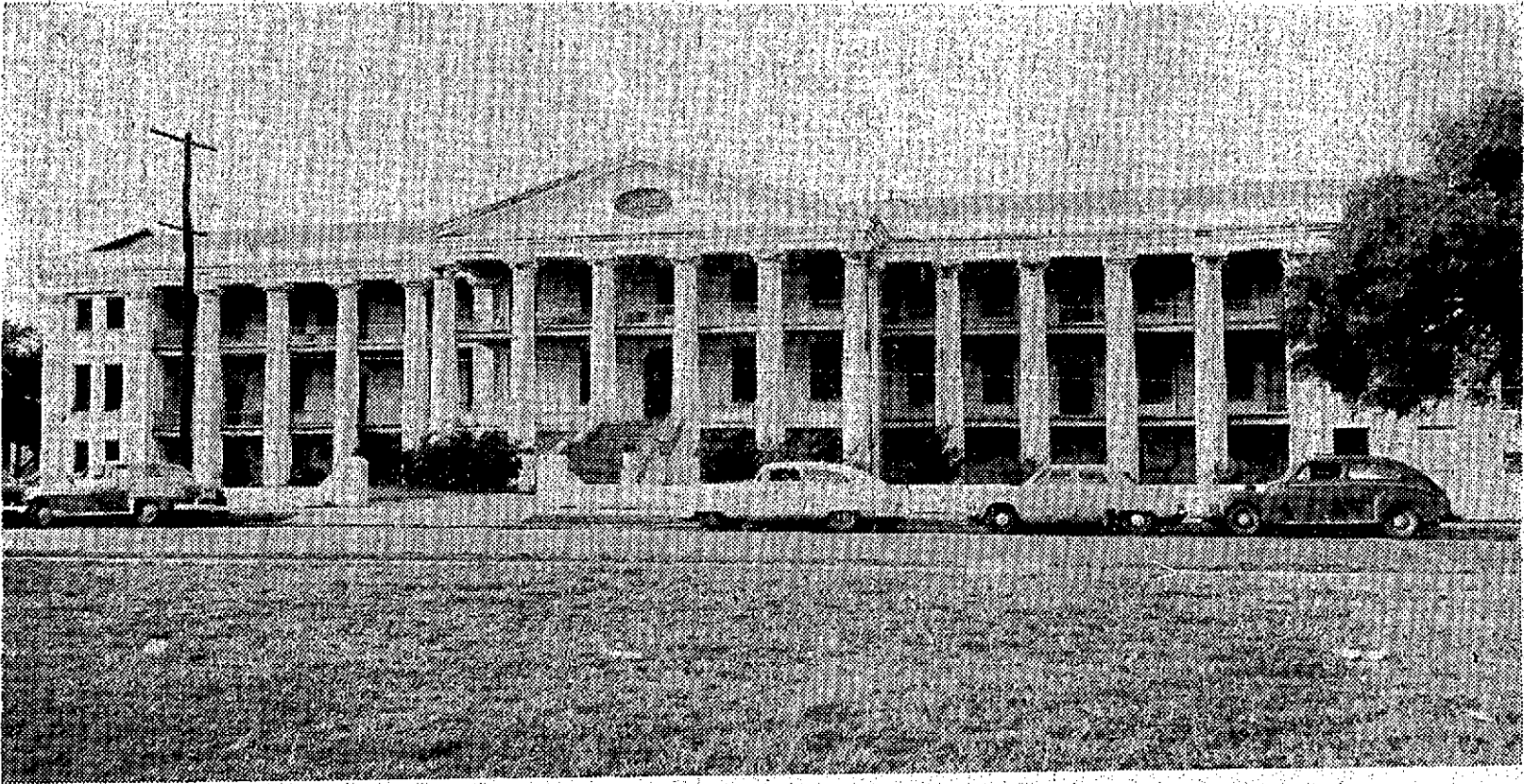


Old Customs House and Post Office, built in 1856.

Courtesy, First National Bank

traveled abroad. World famous people visited this city. One of these was the great opera star, Adelina Patti.

The home of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert extended Southern hospitality to the great people of the world. Henry Clay, early American statesman, Edgar Allen Poe, the American poet, Mary Anderson, the famous actress, and Theodore O'Hara, the editor of The Mobile Register, were among her guests. Dr. Josiah Knott, who even then thought the mosquito was the carrier of yellow fever, visited Mme. LeVert. Ole Bull, famous violinist, and William Walker, the Cuban filibuster, were



City Hospital. One of the buildings designed by Thomas James, famous architect of the Fifties.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler



Joseph Jefferson, famous actor, once lived in this house, where there is now a restaurant named in his honor.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

also among the many seen in this house. The LeVert home still stands on the southwest corner of Government and St. Emanuel Streets.

The American actor, Joseph Jefferson, was born in Mobile. The building at the Southwest corner of Royal and St. Michael Streets is marked as his birthplace. Sarah Bernhardt, the famous French actress, came to Mobile. She played at old Temperance Hall which used to stand on the northeast corner of St. Michael and St. Joseph.

This period in Mobile history is often called the "Golden Age." It was so-called because of the wealth and culture which the people enjoyed.

Chapter VIII

Mobile Joins the Confederacy

In 1861, a new flag floated over the southern states. For years the North and South had disagreed over several things. They could not agree on the question of slavery and states' rights. Each side thought its ideas were right. Each felt injured by the other side. Their quarrels grew worse and worse. At last the South seceded from the Union.

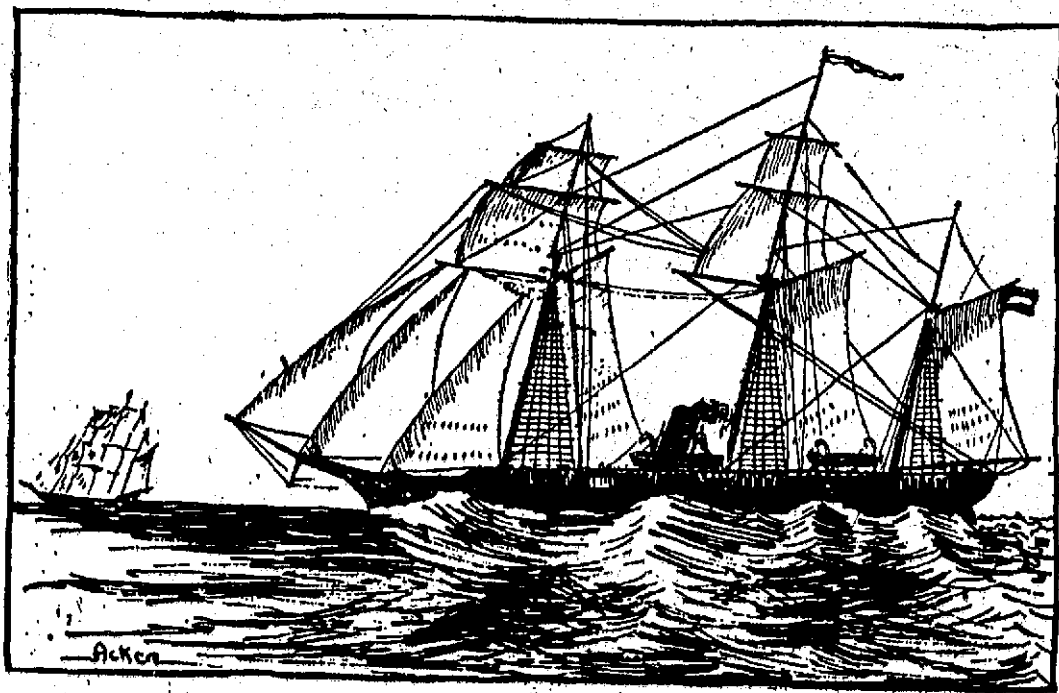
Men from eleven southern states met in Montgomery. They organized the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis was chosen president. A gold star marks the spot in the State Capitol where he stood to take the oath of office. Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History, has in the department the Bible he used. The star and the old Bible are treasured by the people of Alabama. The same Bible is used when an Alabama governor is inaugurated. Montgomery earned the title, "Cradle of the Confederacy."

General Robert E. Lee was the South's great commander-in-chief. Southern men and boys joined his forces. All able-bodied men and even boys in their teens were needed at the front. Mobile sent its full share of brave men to the Confederate army. Still there were

never enough soldiers to fill the ranks. The ill, wounded, and killed could not be replaced. The army never had enough provisions, ammunition, nor hospital supplies. After four terrible years of gallant fighting, the South was forced to surrender.

At this time, Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States. In 1863 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed the slaves. Many plantation owners had already begun to free their slaves. Some freedmen went away and tried to take care of themselves. Others proved their loyalty and devotion by staying with their "white folks." They helped in every way possible through those sad years.

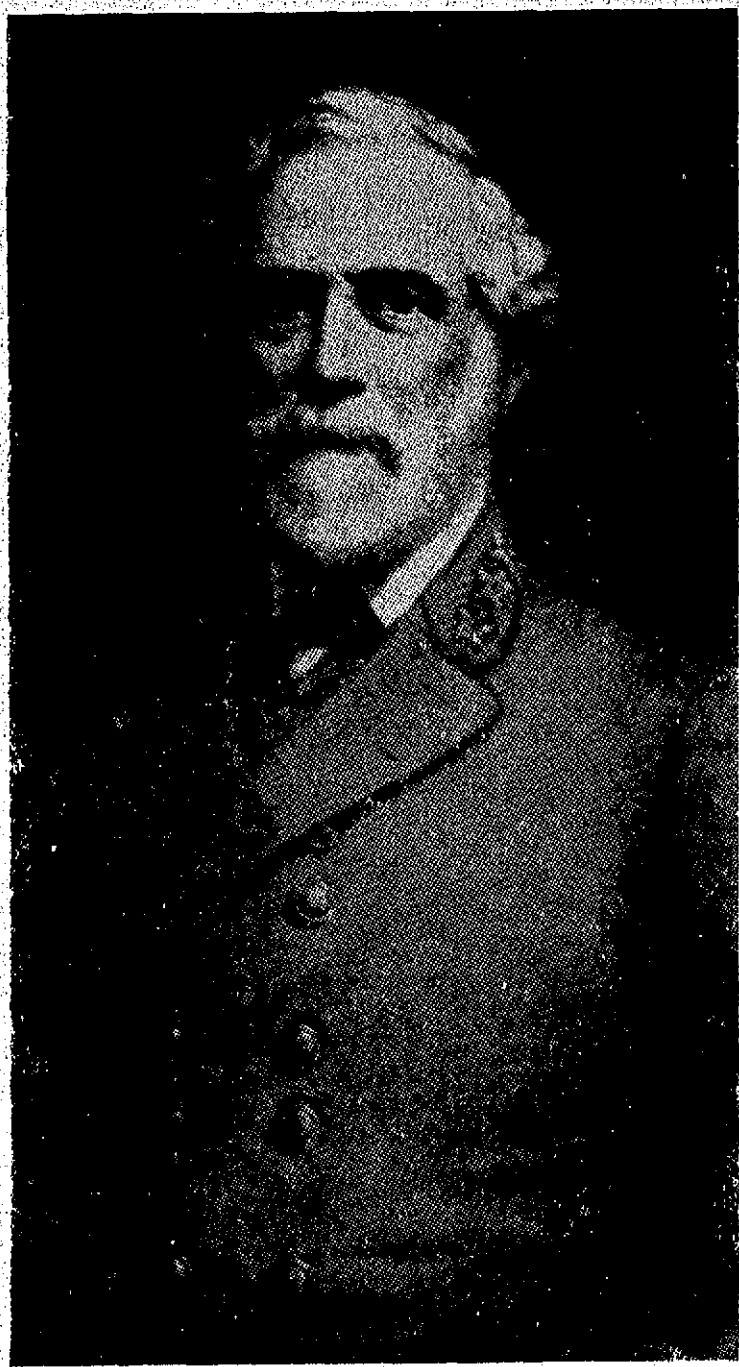
Food was very scarce. Most of it had to be sent to the soldiers. Crops could not be planted since almost all men were in the army. Federal troops passing through took the grain, drove away the livestock, and stripped the smokehouses.



C. S. S. Alabama. (Old Print).

Courtesy, First National Bank

Clothes were made of a coarse material called cottonade or homespun. It was spun, woven, and dyed at home. Strong thorns were used for pins and persimmon seeds for buttons. Hats were made of plaited straw, corn shucks, and palmetto strips. They were trimmed with real flowers.



Robert E. Lee, General of the Confederate Army.



Raphael Semmes, Admiral of the Confederate Navy.

Courtesy of Mr. R. B. Chandler, and Miss Laura E. Simmons

Two great Mobilians were famous Confederate officers. One was Admiral Raphael Semmes, commander of the *Alabama*. In two years he captured over sixty-five Union vessels. He took their cargoes, burned the ships,

but saved the people. After the war the Federal government put the admiral in prison as a pirate. For a while he was in danger of being hanged but was finally released. He spent his last years in Mobile. He was honored by all who knew him. A Mobile hotel and two public schools, besides other places, bear his name. You may see his statue standing above the entrance to Bankhead Tunnel. It looks just as he did, when he stood on the deck of his Confederate gunboat, the Alabama.

The other Confederate officer was Abram Joseph Ryan. He was a chaplain in General Lee's army. Father Ryan was called the Poet-Priest of the South. Two of his best known poems about the Confederacy are "The Sword of Lee" and "The Conquered Banner." He came to Mobile after the war and was pastor at St. Mary's Church. His statue now stands in Ryan Park on Spring Hill Avenue. Both of these heroes are buried in Mobile and tourists often ask to see their graves.



Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

Chapter IX

Union Troops Take the City

For months terror hung over the city of Mobile. One day eighteen Union ships lined up in the gulf. Four of these were ironclad. Their Admiral, David Farragut, planned to force his way between Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines. Then he could enter Mobile Bay.

The Confederate Navy was anchored in the bay. There were three tiny gunboats and just one large armored vessel. This largest one was called the Tennessee. It was a powerful armored ram. The Confederate Navy tried to stop the northern fleet. All day a fierce battle went on until the three Confederate gunboats were silenced. For some hours the Tennessee fought on alone. Her smokestack and steering gear were shot away. Her commanding officer was badly wounded. The Tennessee had to surrender. The Battle of Mobile Bay ended, August 5, 1864.

Farragut's ships then passed between the two forts that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay. Fort Gaines surrendered almost at once. Fort Morgan, superior in guns and armaments, was defended and held for two weeks. The white flag was then raised.

The army of Mobile was made up of young boys and

old men. Some of the boys were as young as fourteen years of age. The men were sixty years old and some even older. They could not hold out against the Northern Army. After twelve days of fighting Mobile surrendered on April 12, 1865.

That was a dark day for the proud city of Mobile. On the streets were seen old men, little boys, and war cripples. In the homes sad-faced women waited. They heard the Union soldiers marching through the city. Their sons had gone away to die for the South. They could not bear the sight of these soldiers in blue coats marching up Government Street. Their eyes filled with tears and they



Barton Academy, oldest Public School in Alabama, erected in 1835, was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers in 1865.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

tightly closed the shutters on their windows. The Union soldiers carried their wounded men into Barton Academy. Alabama's first public school was turned into a hospital for soldiers.

There were lines of men along the dusty roads leading south. Confederate soldiers were trudging homeward. Some were walking. Some were riding poor worn-out horses. Kind people along the way helped to make the trip easier. They took the heroes in for a warm meal and a night's rest. Perhaps there were no sheets on the beds, no carpets, nor curtains but there was a welcome. The people had only the plainest food but they were glad to share it with these brave men. The soldiers rested all night and then started on their way the following morning.

All along the way they saw things that saddened their hearts. There were signs of destruction everywhere. Blackened chimneys stood where once were beautiful homes. The houses along the way that had not been burned needed many repairs. Roofs were sagging. Fences were down. Bridges were broken through. Fields grew up in weeds. All these things told the story of a lost war.

Strangers poured into the South. Some of them were greedy. They hoped to get the lands and property of the defeated Southerners for nothing. They brought all they owned in cheap grips made of scraps of carpet. They

were called "carpetbaggers" because of the grips they carried. Some low type persons of the South, called "scalawags" joined the carpetbaggers. Many ignorant freedman joined them. This made up a rude and dishonest group that did much harm to the South.

Mobile suffered with the rest of the South. The streets were crowded with idle Negroes. They had not been trained to work for themselves. They had always been cared for and protected. They had not yet learned how to use their freedom rightly.

Business came to a standstill when the Federal Army of the North took over the city. Banks could do nothing. Confederate money was no good any more. The loyal people who had put their fortunes into Confederate bonds to support the South had no money now. Food was high priced and hard to get. The women made imitation coffee from parched corn.

Ladies had to take good care of their dresses because even cheap calico cost \$25 a yard. Little boys and girls wore homemade hats made of plaited palmetto leaves.

The ruined water front was deserted. There were no busy wharves now. The idle ships were slowly settling down into sand bars and mud flats. The river was choked with weeds. The channel which had been dredged for ships to come in was ruined.

Mobile was indeed an unhappy place.

Chapter X

Citizens Rebuild Mobile

The South knew by bitter experience what it means to lose a war. The year 1865 has often been called Mobile's darkest hour. It takes one kind of courage to fight in battle. Our soldiers needed another kind of courage when they came home from the war. They found their homes wrecked, their business destroyed. Our Southern men had to face the slow hard task of rebuilding a city.

You must remember that these men had lived through the terrible years of war. Many of them were wounded. They were tired from the long march home. They had little left to build on but they had the will to start again.

There was much ammunition left over. Since this was dangerous, the Negroes were put to work at once



Great Magazine Explosion at Mobile in 1865 as Harper's Weekly sketched it.

Courtesy, First National Bank



First home of the First National Bank of Mobile, which began business October 18, 1865, and today is the oldest bank in Alabama. This building, on the Northwest corner of Royal and St. Francis Streets, was where the GM&O Railroad building is now located.

Courtesy, First National Bank

unloading and storing the explosives. About 200 tons were stored in the United States Ordnance Depot. This building stood at Congress and Lipscomb streets. It was called a magazine, meaning a place for keeping explosives and military supplies.

One day there was a sudden explosion. No one ever knew just how it happened. No one lived to tell the

story. Northern newspapers claimed that it was done by the ex-Confederates as revenge. More likely it was due to the carelessness of the untrained freedmen. They did not know how to handle explosives.

Hundreds of people were killed. Ships sank in the river. Thousands of bales of cotton burned on the wharves. Property worth \$750,000 was destroyed. It was the greatest disaster Mobile ever had. It happened in May, 1865. This event is known in Mobile history as "The Great Magazine Explosion."

Yet it was in that dark year that a group of Mobile men decided to start a bank. They had hope and courage and foresight. They set up the First National Bank. It is the oldest bank in Alabama. It was a good influence on the business life of the city and gave the people a much-needed service. The First National Bank is still serving the people of Mobile.

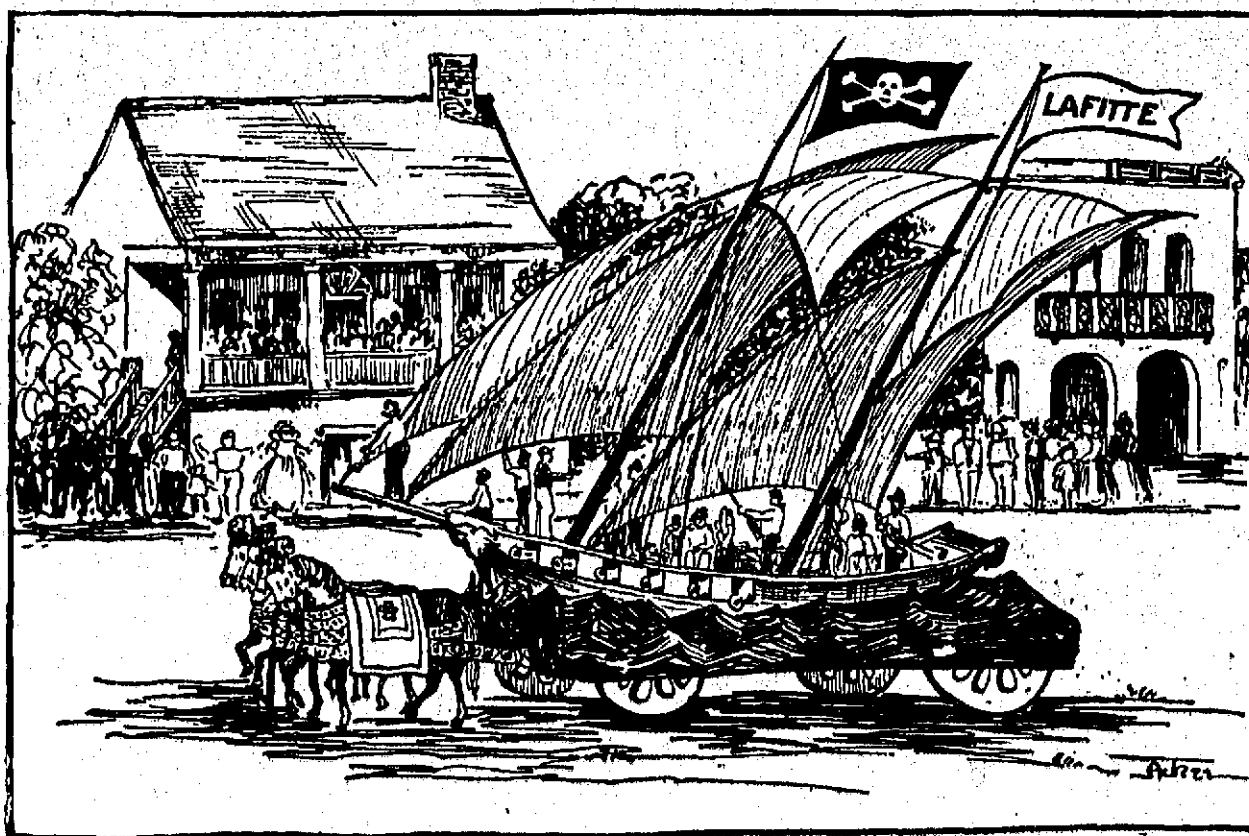
Not all Northerners were carpetbaggers. In 1873, panic struck the South. The suffering among the starving Southerners was severe. Good people in the North raised large sums of money for the relief of the South. This generous deed caused better feelings between the North and South.

In spite of many discouraging things, Mobile made progress. Carpetbaggers and scalawags were cleaned out of the city government. By 1875 citizens had elected honorable men to public offices.

The South never forgot the heroes of the War Between the States. Mobilians named a school for General Robert E. Lee, the South's greatest military leader. In the hearts of school children here, his memory will live forever.

The Mobile Cotton Exchange was founded in 1871. Thirty-two telephones, the first to be installed, were put up in 1879. The first water-works company was organized. It was called the Bienville Water Works. The city then had pure water. A sewer system was laid.

For years Mobile had its own carnival season, beginning on New Year's Eve, 1831. On that night, Michael Krafft and his friends staged a parade on the streets with cowbells and rakes. Out of this grew the important Cowbellion de Rakein Society, first of the so-called mystic societies. In 1868, the Order of Myths began parading

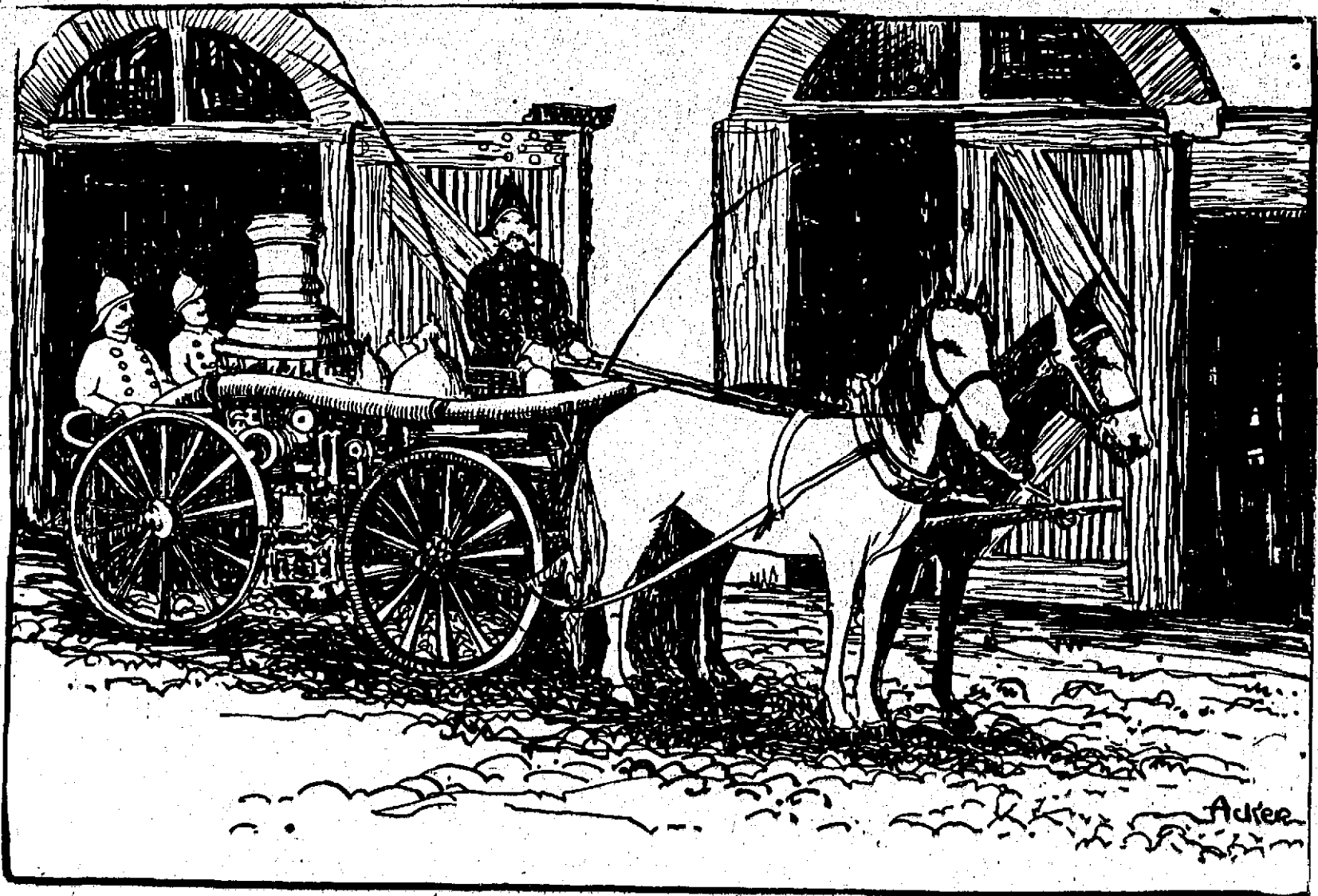


Mardi Gras float in O. O. M. Parade, 1884.

Courtesy, First National Bank

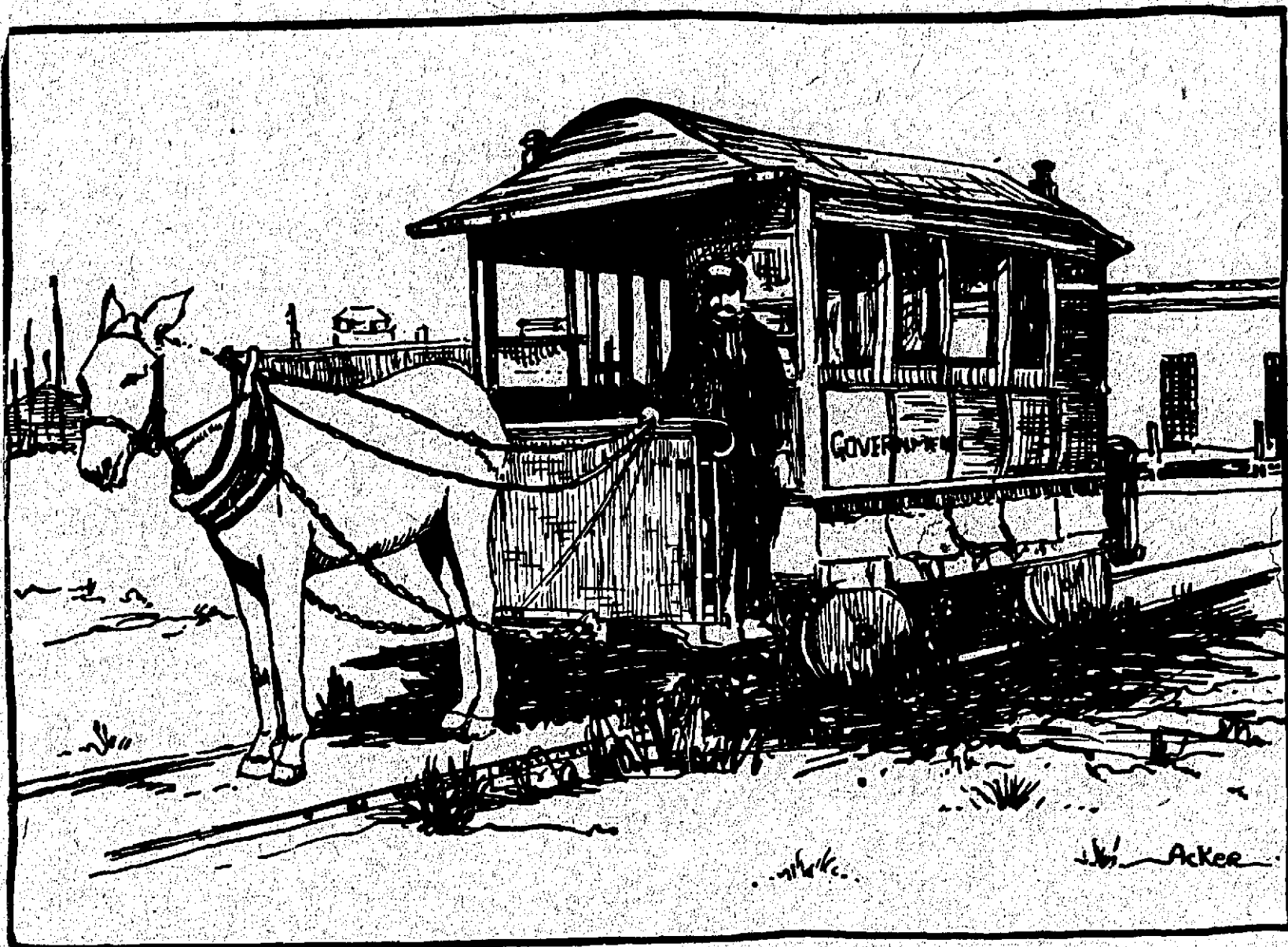
at Mardi Gras time. This earned for Mobile the name, "Mother of Mystics." It was the first city on this continent to adopt the carnival season of the old countries. During the war years, naturally, the celebration was given up. When peace returned, Mobile returned to its enjoyment of Mardi Gras.

It had always been the custom for young men of Mobile to serve as volunteer fire-fighters. The city started a paid fire department in 1888. Among the first of the paid companies was the famous Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1. It had an old-fashioned steamer or boiler wagon. When an alarm sounded, Creole No. 1 would take off from its fire house on the southwest corner of Dearborn and St. Francis. The old building is still standing.



Mobile fire engine of the old days.

Courtesy, First National Bank

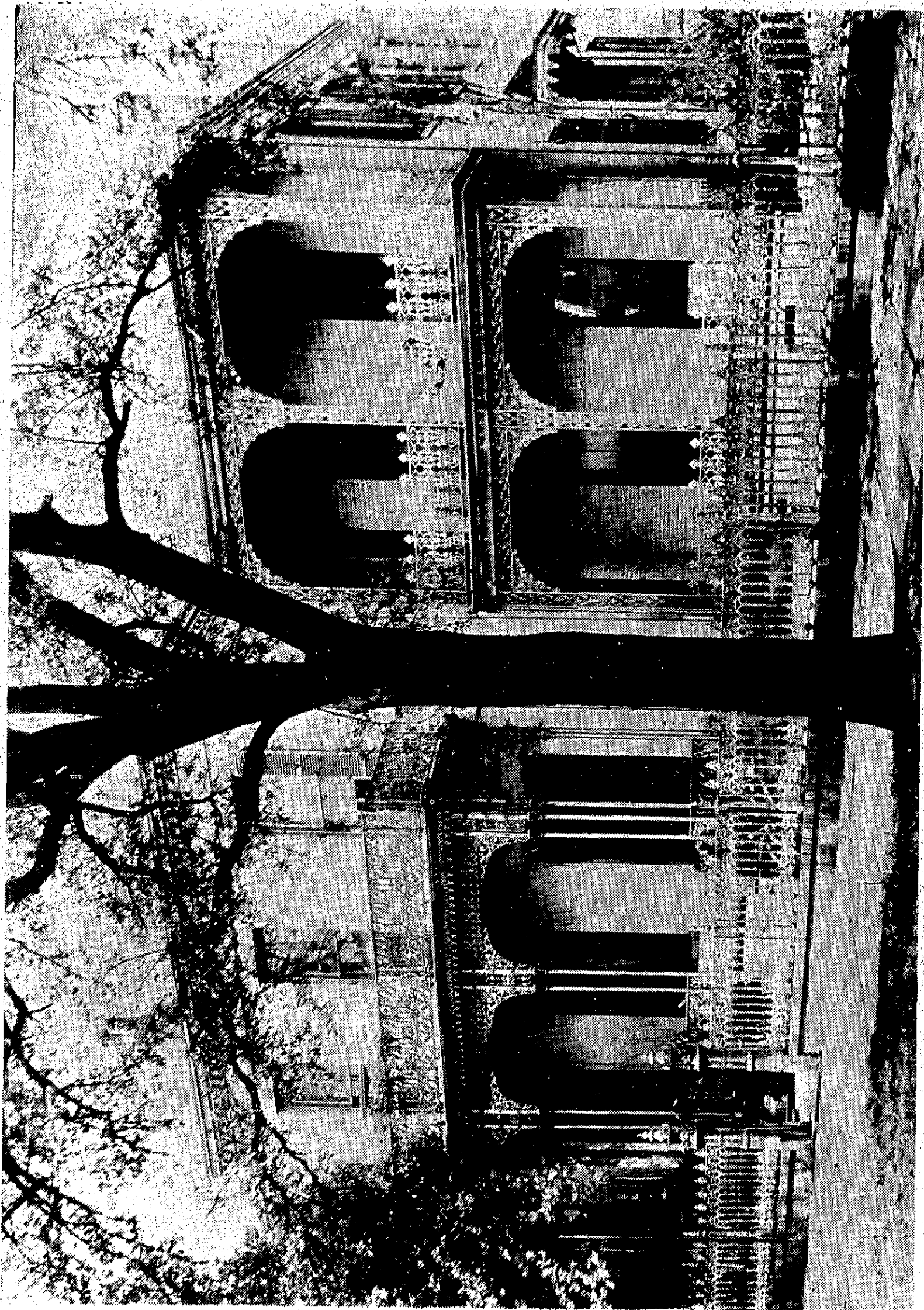


These old horse-drawn street cars gave way to the first electric street car in Mobile in 1893.

Courtesy, First National Bank

Horse drawn cars gave way to the first electric street cars. The city started to pave its streets. The Federal Government dug a deeper channel in Mobile River. Soon larger ships could come into port. Mobile then had drydocks where shipbuilding and ship repairs boomed. A grain elevator was built. Loads of lumber went out from Alabama and cargoes of bananas came in. These and other exports and imports helped to make Mobile a prosperous port city.

Of course those years were not without hardships. Yellow fever epidemics took lives. Mobile's own General William Gorgas believed that mosquitoes spread the



The family home of General Gorgas' parents. This house was at the Northeast corner of Government and Claiborne where The Mobile Press Register building now stands.

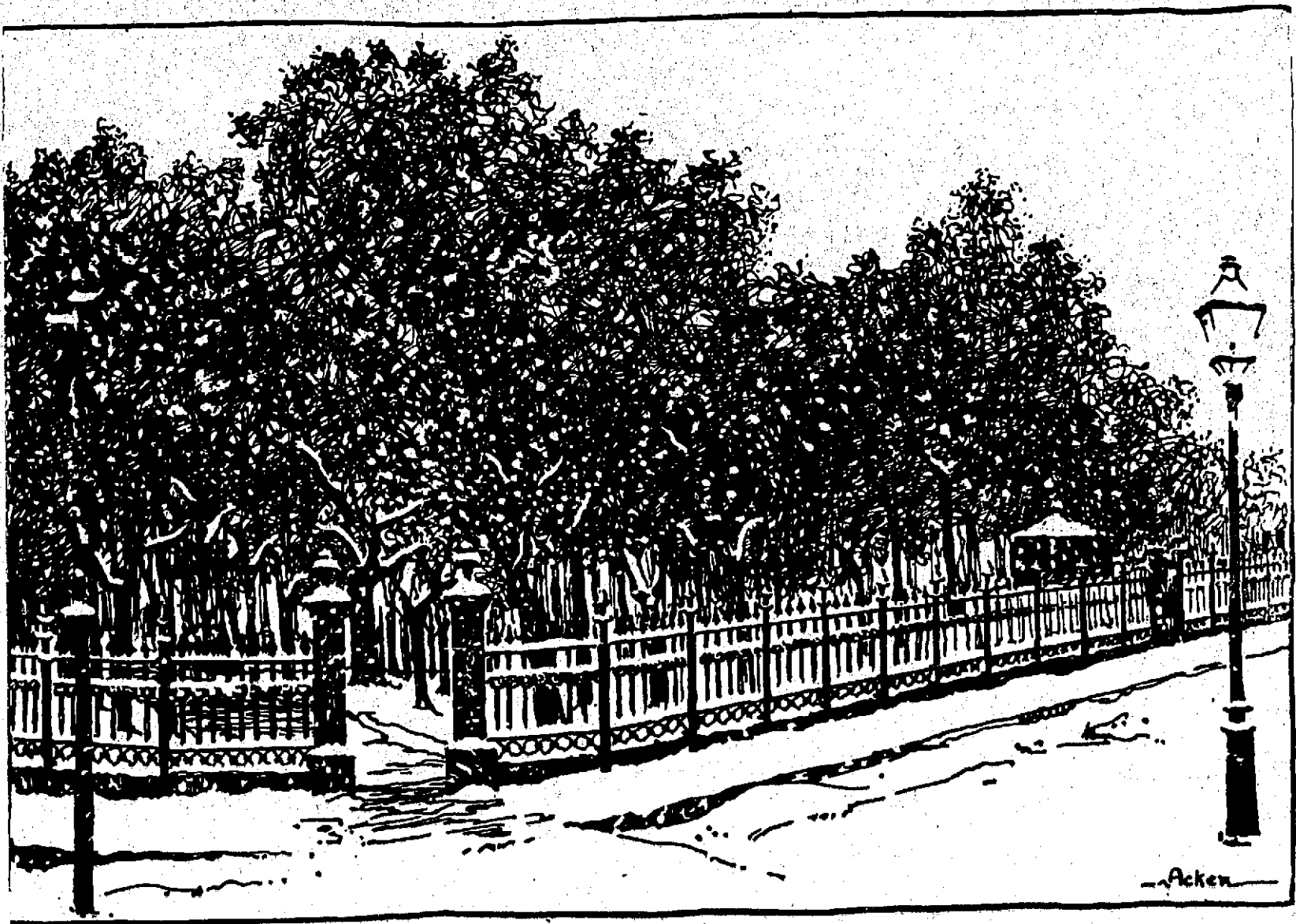
Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

fever germ. By using this idea, General Gorgas whipped "Yellow Jack."

Hurricanes, from time to time, lashed the coast, causing loss of life and property. Mobile, with the rest of the country, suffered depressions, often called panics. The Spanish-American War and two World Wars claimed many of Mobile's young men.

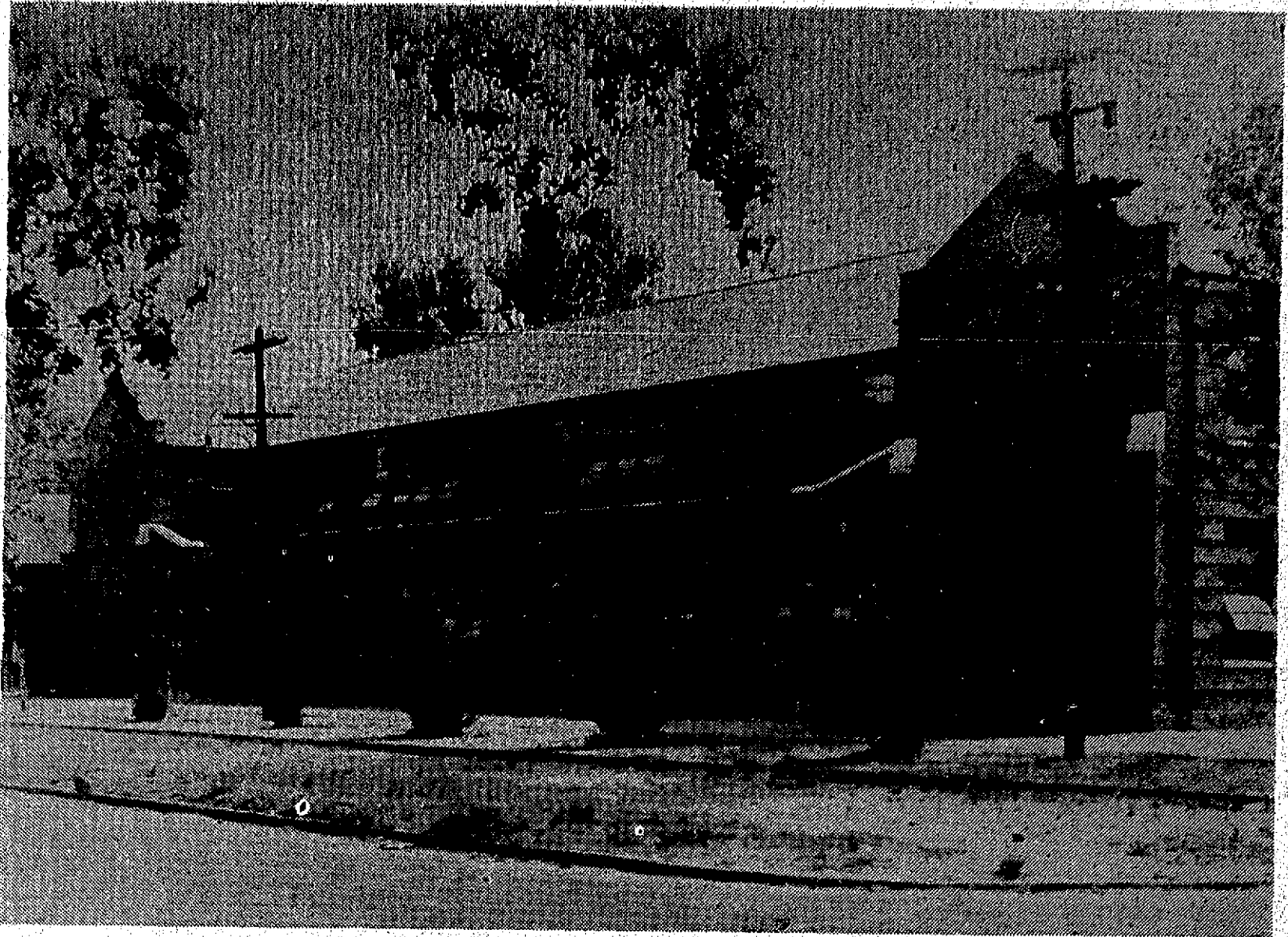
In spite of set backs, Mobile was a growing city. Industries began to take a look at this area as a good location for factories.

During this period, interest grew in a school of advanced grade for colored pupils. In 1887 the Board of



In 1881, a six-inch snow covered Bienville Square which still had an iron fence around it.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler



Caldwell School, built in 1947, replaced old Broad Street Academy, established in 1887 by Professor W. A. Caldwell.

School Commissioners erected the building known as the Broad Street Academy.

Professor William Aymer Caldwell was made principal. The first class to complete the four-year course was composed of four young men and twelve young women. Superintendent E. R. Dickson awarded School Board diplomas to the first graduates, June 18, 1891. This occasion marked a distinct epoch in the educational history of the colored citizens of Mobile.

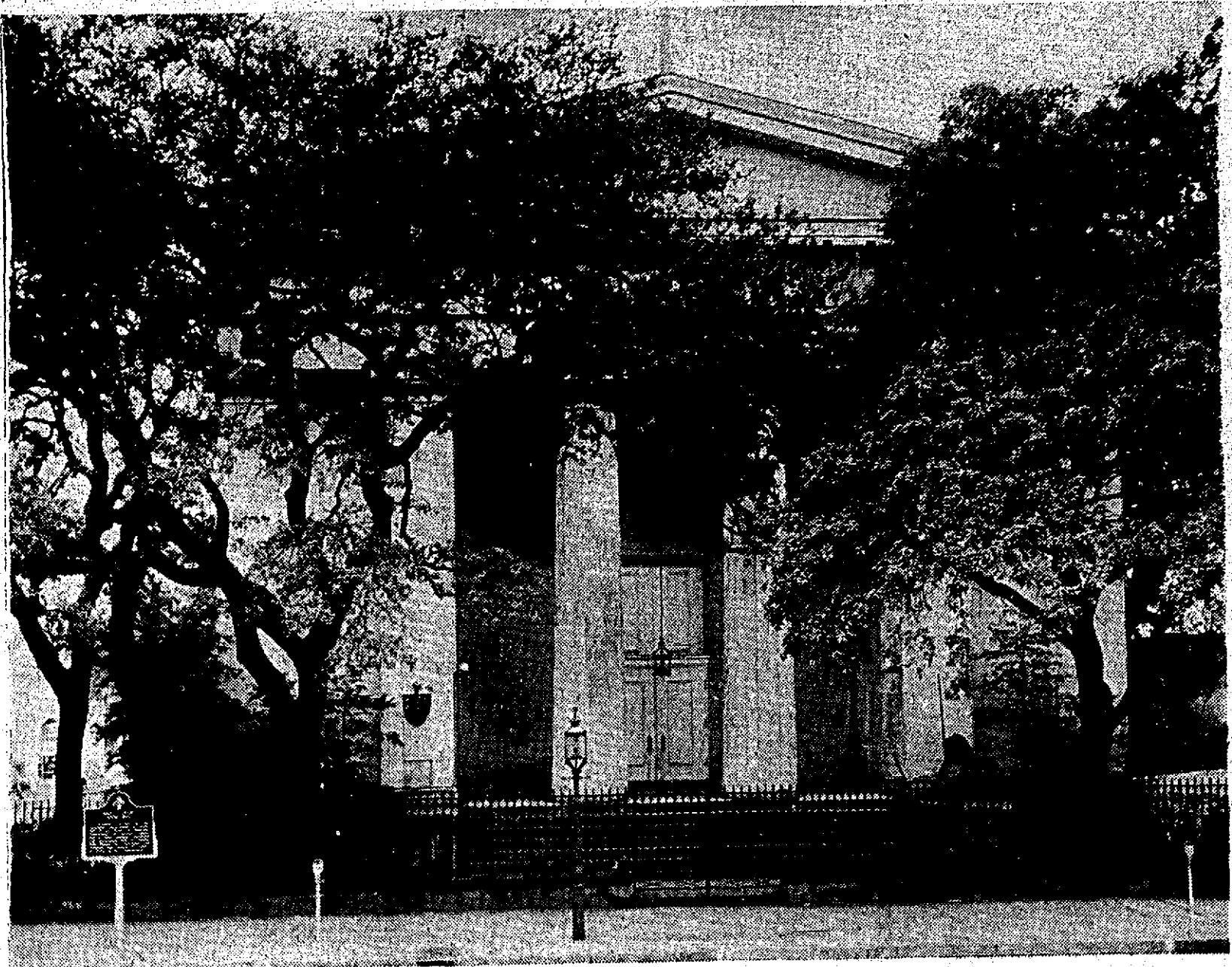
In 1947, the old school was torn down and a modern building replaced it. The name was changed to Caldwell School. This school is a lasting monument to one who was a leader of his people.

Chapter XI

Mobile County Spreads Out

Did you know that Mobile was once part of the Mississippi Territory? That was before Alabama or Mississippi had become states. This is a good place to review some early history. It will help you to understand how Mobile County was formed.

In 1812, the Congress ruled that the District of Mobile was a part of the United States. Governor Holmes



Christ Church, built in 1841, is the mother-church of Episcopalians in Alabama.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

of the Mississippi Territory at once laid out the County of Mobile.

Mobile declared itself a city in 1814. By 1815, what was once a village of a few hundred people, had become a busy city. It spread out from the water front to about



City Hall on South Royal Street dates back to 1858. It is a beautiful example of Spanish architecture. Once the lower floor was a market, and slaves were sold in the rear.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

where the Admiral Semmes Hotel is now. It reached as far as St. Louis Street on the north. On the south the city's boundary was Government Street. Below that was Bienville's old Fort Conde or Fort Charlotte as the Eng-

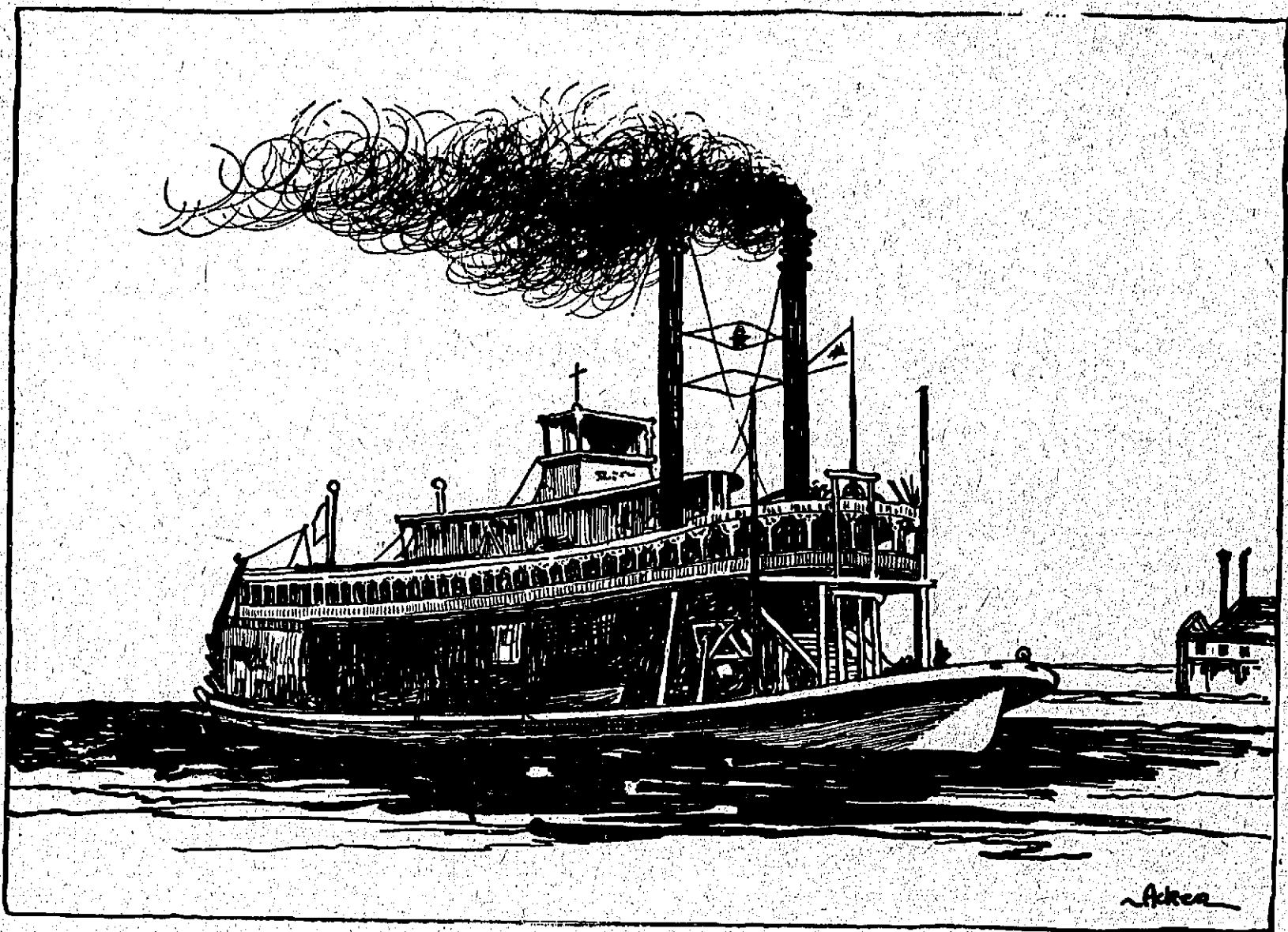
lish called it. The Americans blew up the fort to make room for the new people moving in.

After Alabama was admitted into the Union as a state in 1819, people flocked into this area. The city grew with commerce. The settlers in the back country needed supplies. Some were brought by steamboats that went up and down the rivers from Mobile. Some were brought by wagons along the new roads, fast being built out into the county.

Government Street was extended. Roads were pushed north to Three Mile Creek and to the gas works. West of the city was the old Military Road, used by General Jackson on his march to New Orleans. This road is still in existence. Along the bay shore there was a gleaming white carriage drive made of crushed oyster shells. It was called the Bay Shell Road. Another drive, called Old Shell Road, ran out to Spring Hill. Many streets and roads were made of oyster shells in those days.

Later the railroads came. One little railroad ran South to Coden. Another went north to Citronelle. Muddy and dusty dirt roads finally gave way to paved highways. Automobiles took the place of old-fashioned wagons and horseback riders.

Today there are many interesting places to visit in Mobile County. Each settlement seems to have its own



Old time river boat.

Courtesy, First National Bank

special quality. Three of these small villages grew large enough to become towns. Now Mobile County has four towns: Mobile, Citronelle, Prichard, and Chickasaw. Each has its own mayor and town council.

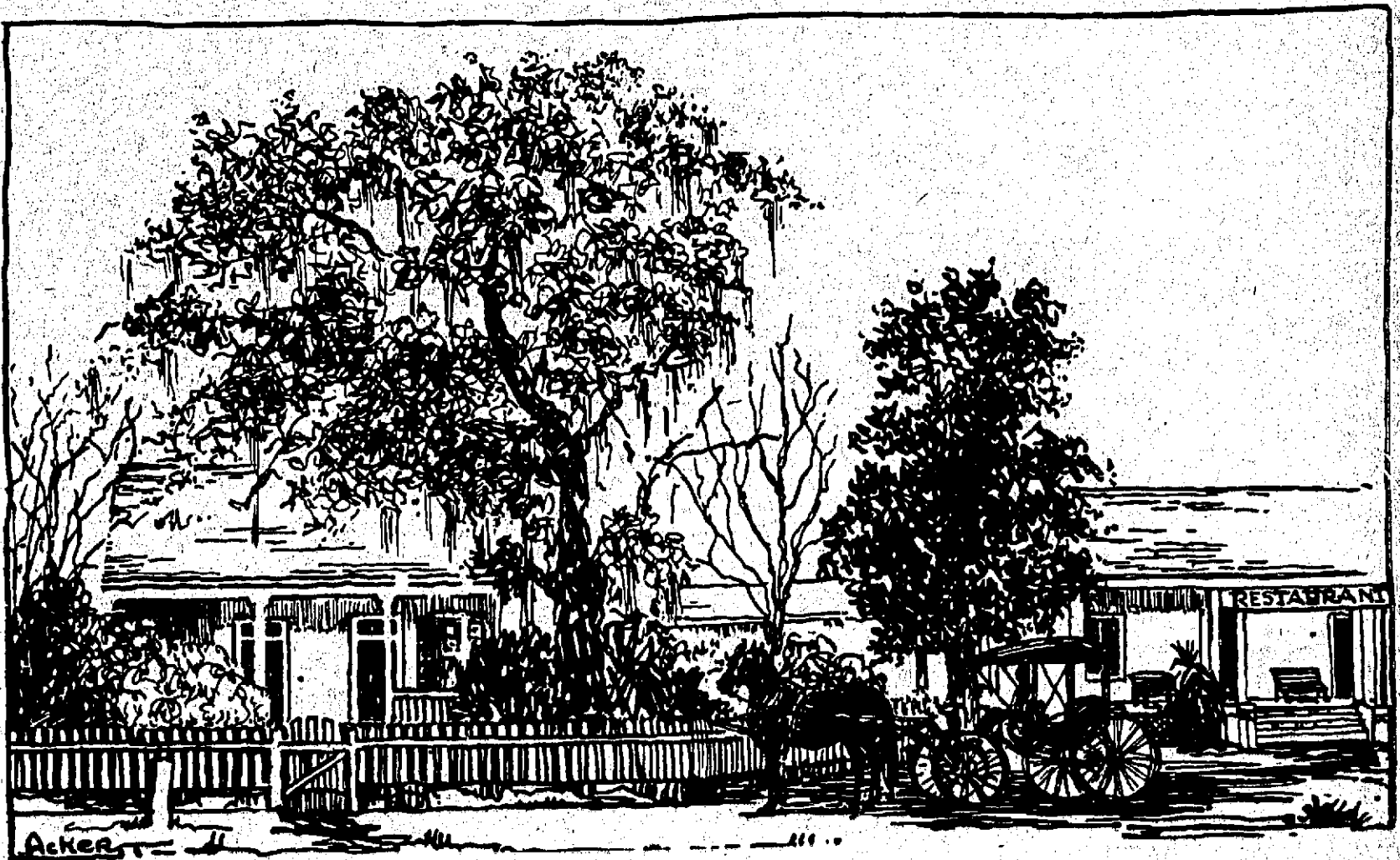
Citronelle, oldest of the towns after Mobile, was once a noted health resort. Located on the old Mobile and Ohio Railroad, in the hills to the north, it is the highest spot in the county. Tourists and invalids were attracted by the healthful climate and the pure water. When the famous Hygeia Hotel burned, the tourist business fell off.

During harvest time, today, Citronelle is a busy place. Workers gather nuts from the tung trees. From

these nuts oil is pressed out and used in making paints.

At Citronelle there are three Scout camps: Pushmataha and Leon Roberts camps for boys and Scoutshire for girls. Scoutshire belongs to the School Board. When it is not leased to the Girl Scouts, it is used for outdoor education classes from the public schools. It is also a gathering place for Mobile teachers.

Another town is Prichard. This has been rated as the fastest growing town in Alabama. Prichard is proud of its modern schools, churches, and business houses. The town is largely made up of the families of those employed in construction plants in and around Mobile. So, Prichard is said to be an industrial town.

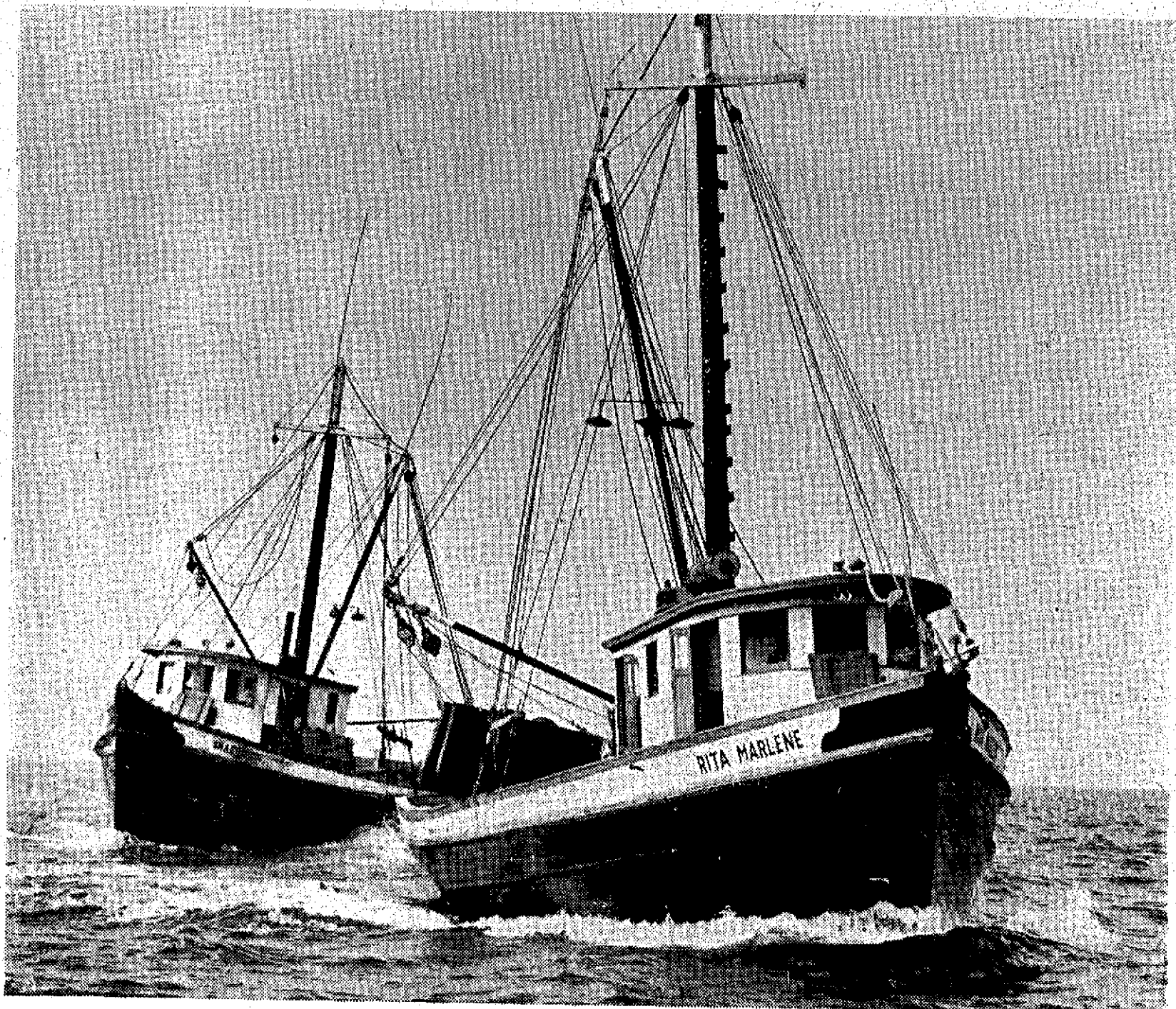


Bay Shell Road, once a fashionable drive "down the bay," is now part of Brookley Air Force Base.

Courtesy, First National Bank

Chickasaw, north of Mobile, is the newest town in Mobile County. This town gets its name from a tribe of Indians that once lived there. During the war years Chickasaw was the center of much shipbuilding. It has continued to progress. Many plants chose to locate in Chickasaw because of its advantages. Fishing camps and boat storage places dot the banks of Chickasabogue Creek.

Besides the towns, there are several small places with interesting activities. West of Mobile is Semmes, called "Camellia Capital of the World." Each fall, ca-



"Shrimp Boats Are Comin'."

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler



Shrimping is a main industry in Mobile waters.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

mellias, azaleas, magnolias and other shrubs are dug and prepared for shipment all over the United States. From the time these shrubs begin to bloom, Semmes is in the spotlight. The nurseries have hundreds of acres covered with growing plants. The industry employs several hundred people.

Visitors from all over the world come to Semmes in the spring for the colorful Camellia Festival.

In the south end of Mobile County is Bayou la Batre. It was settled many years ago by the French. Fishing,



Flagstone walk bordered by azaleas in beautiful Bellingrath Gardens.
Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

shrimping, and tonging for oysters are the main industry. At Bayou la Batre there is a large cannery where seafoods are packed and shipped. Bayou la Batre is a favorite place for fishing parties. Artists, too, like to go there. Its moss-draped oaks, the boats in the bayou, and the quaint village have been the subject of numerous sketches.

Bellingrath Gardens, on the Isle aux Oies River, to the south, is a national floral shrine. Thousands of rare shrubs and flowers have been planted in these semi-tropical gardens. Landscape artists have laid out the gardens with all the skill at their command.

Known as "The Charm Spot of the Deep South," Bellingrath Gardens are visited daily by thousands of tourists. Mr. Walter D. Bellingrath and his wife, the late Mrs. Bessie Morse Bellingrath, worked together for many years to create this beautiful spot. It is one of the show places of the county.

Recently, historic Dauphin Island has come into its own. Each year in August a huge fishing rodeo is held at the island. Sportsmen from all over the world come to try their luck. Prizes are awarded to the best fishermen.

Now, Dauphin Island is on the eve of a new development. A bridge to connect the island with the mainland will be built. The island has been laid off in lots, roads, streets, and beaches. Historic sites such as Fort

Gaines, the Indian Mounds, and Isabella de Soto's Walk will be preserved. Dauphin Island is on Highway 45, a direct route from Chicago and the Great Lakes to the Gulf.

Thus you can see how Mobile County has spread out and how varied and interesting it is.



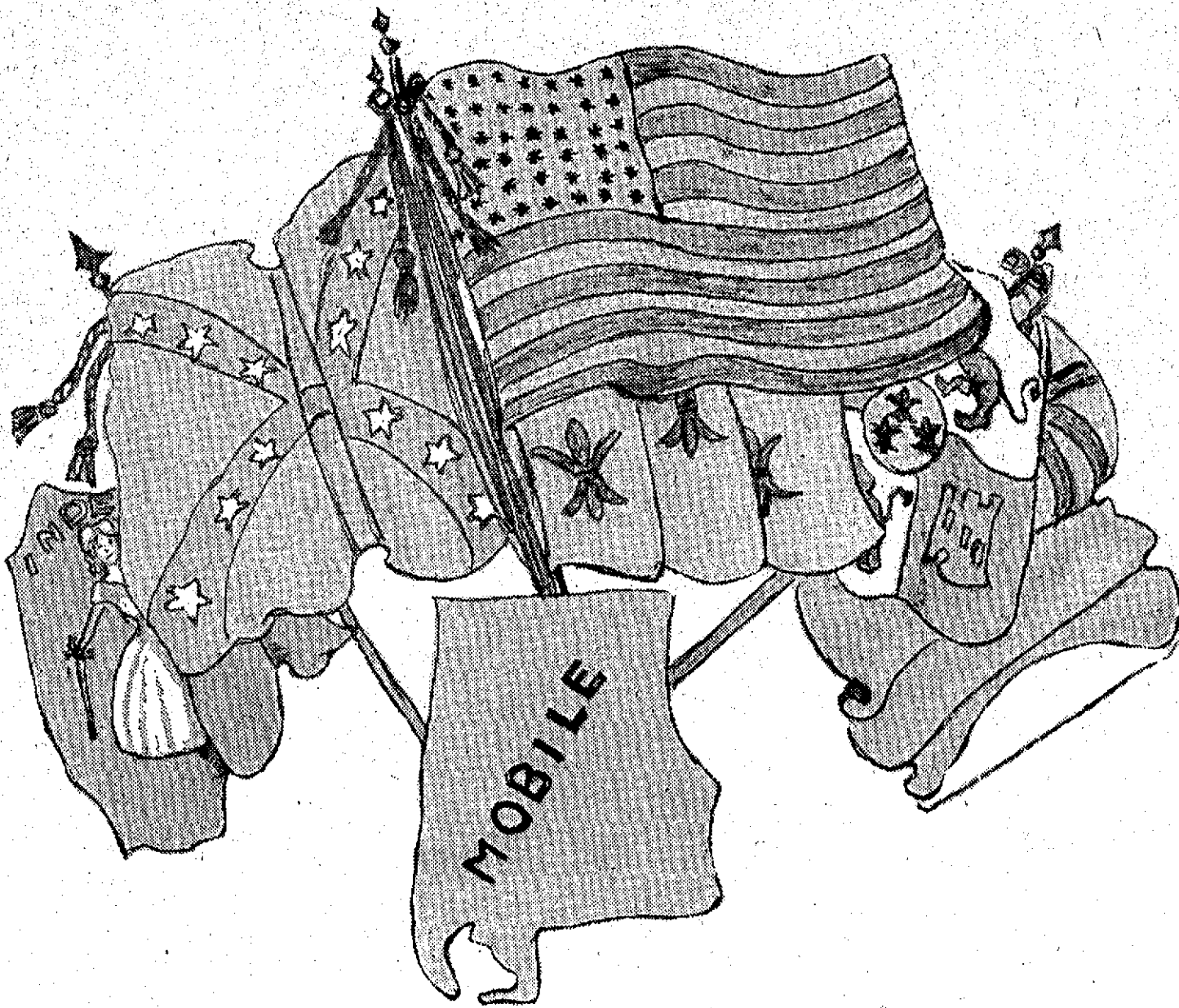
Monolith in Bellingrath Gardens tells the story of these famed gardens for all time.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

Chapter XII

Mobile Looks Ahead

The history of Mobile is a history of discovery. It is a story of exploration in a new land. It tells how a city was built. People of different races, colors, and faiths settled in Mobile. They were welcomed here and made good citizens. Many of you can be proud of the part your forefathers had in the growth of Mobile. It is well for us to remember this "goodly heritage." We should honor their memory by being good citizens today.



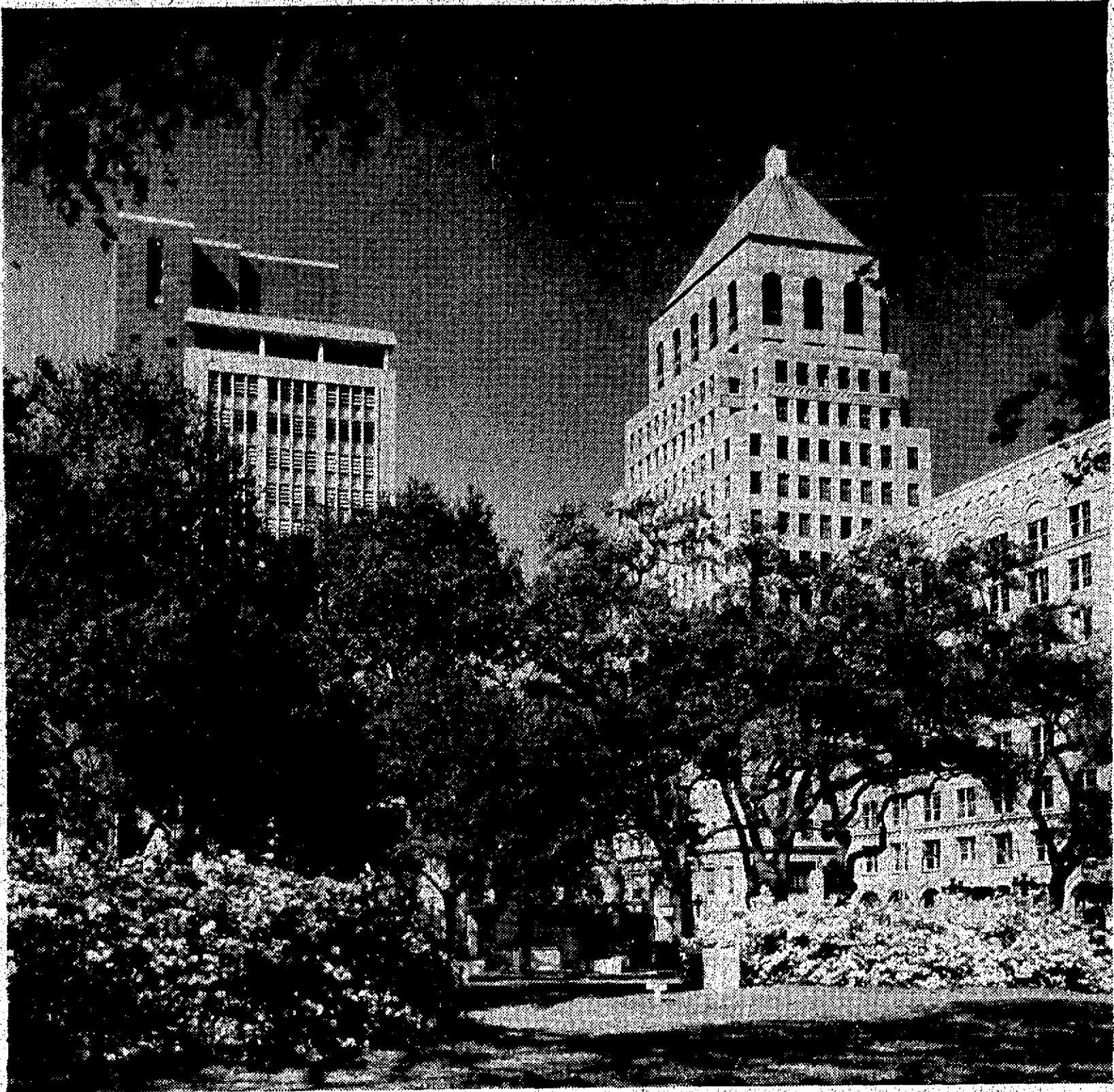
These are the six flags which have floated over Mobile. The Historic Mobile Preservation Society has adopted the Six Flags as its insignia.
Courtesy, Mrs. Sidney Phillips, The Artist

It was over 250 years ago that a band of daring French explorers started their small village on Mobile River. During those years Mobile has lived under six different flags: the French, the British, the Spanish, the United States, the Secession flag, the Stars and Bars of



Lobby of Waterman Building. Many students are able to get valuable information about Mobile history and about other nations from the famous Albrizzio Murals and the huge globe of the world.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

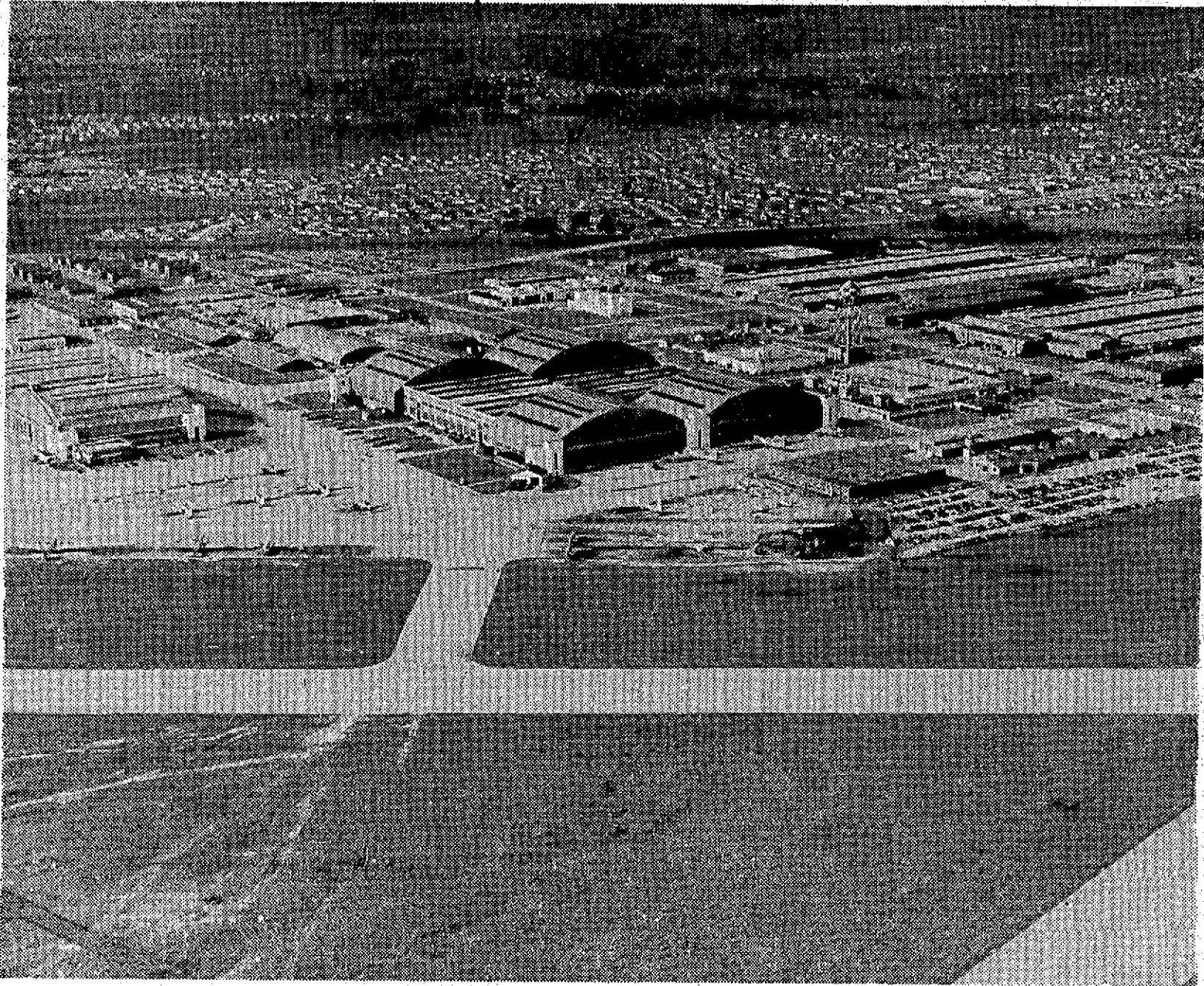


View of business district in downtown Mobile seen through Bienville Square, shows Merchants Bank building on right and Waterman building on left.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

the Confederacy, and again the flag of the United States. About a hundred persons made up the French village on the bluff. Today, the population of Greater Mobile is nearly 250,000. A pleasant climate, friendly folk and large industries attract people to Mobile.

Wouldn't you have fun taking a Frenchman of long ago on a tour of Mobile today? He would enjoy riding over miles and miles of paved streets. With a thrill of



Brookley Air Force Base as it looks from the air.

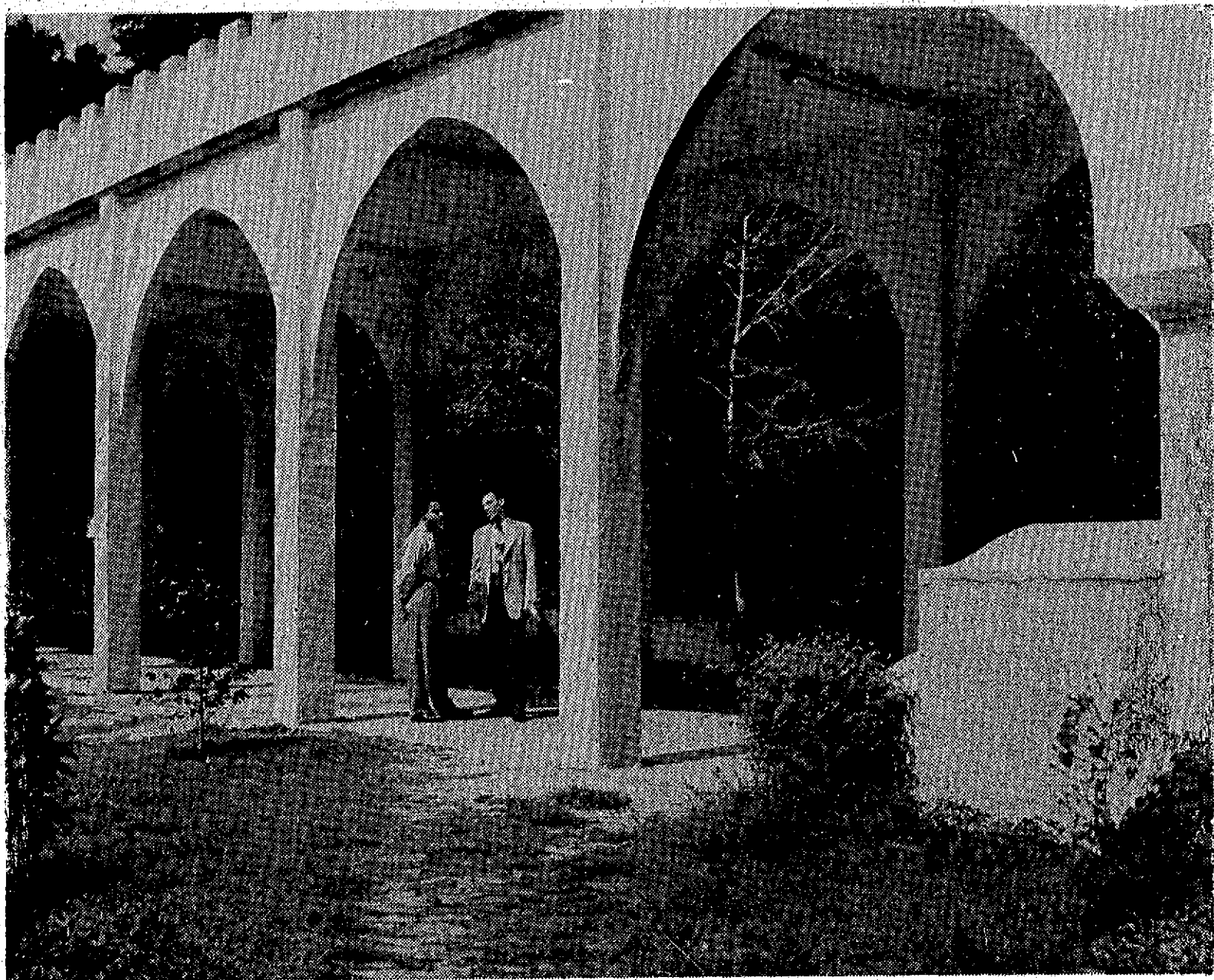
Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler

pride we would show him our lovely azaleas. These azaleas are descendants of plants brought from his native France. Beautiful gardens and spreading moss-draped oaks would rouse his admiration.

Among our sky-scrapers, he would see the Merchants National Bank and the Waterman Building. He would pause to admire our stately homes, large apartment houses, and many playgrounds. We would show him three modern hospitals: Mobile, Providence, and Blessed Martin de Porres hospitals. The Chamber of Commerce, the U. S. Postoffice, and the Federal Building would certainly astonish him.

We would take him up in a plane from Bates Field and give him an air view of the city. He would see below the Alabama State Docks and Brookley Air Force Base.

After the flight he would visit our modern public schools where many thousand Mobile children are enrolled. Private and parochial schools enroll thousands more. He would see Spring Hill College which is more than a hundred years old. The Mobile Center of the University of Alabama is here. Beautiful churches for people of many faiths would impress him.



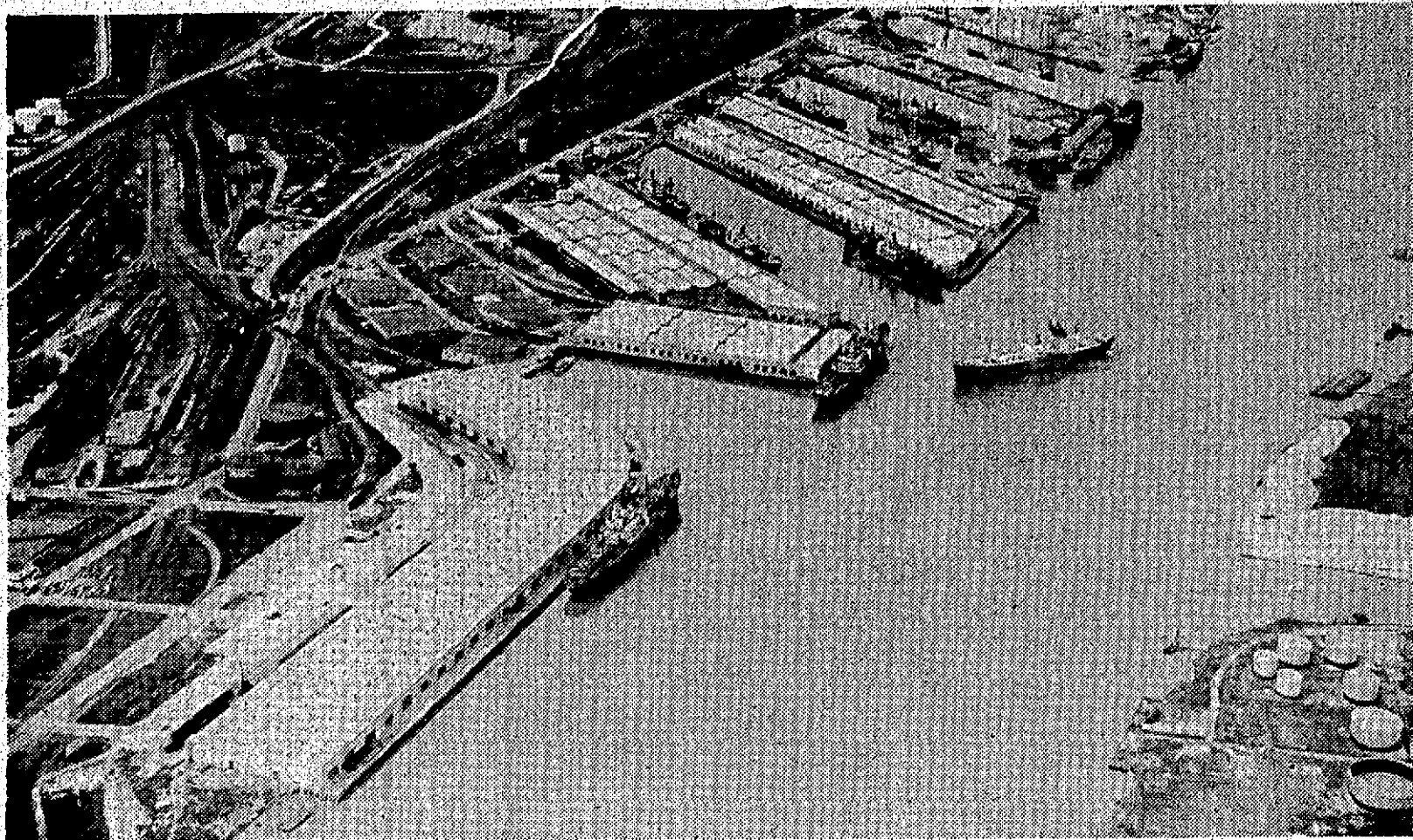
Historic archway at Spring Hill College, founded in 1830 by Catholic Bishop Michael Portier. With the Jesuits as instructors, it is the oldest college in Alabama.

Courtesy, Spring Hill College

The crowning point of the tour would be our trip to the State Docks. He would be amazed at the great ships. Here long ago only tiny sailing vessels were to be seen. He would be interested in a banana boat from South America unloading its delicious cargo. He would see piles of bauxite, manganese ore, and nitrate of soda. He would be surprised at the huge tanks filled with molasses from Cuba. Vessels from all over the world come into our port. They bring rich cargoes from many lands. They often stay for needed repairs at our drydocks. Then they reload with cotton, lumber, coal, steel, and other exports and speed away.

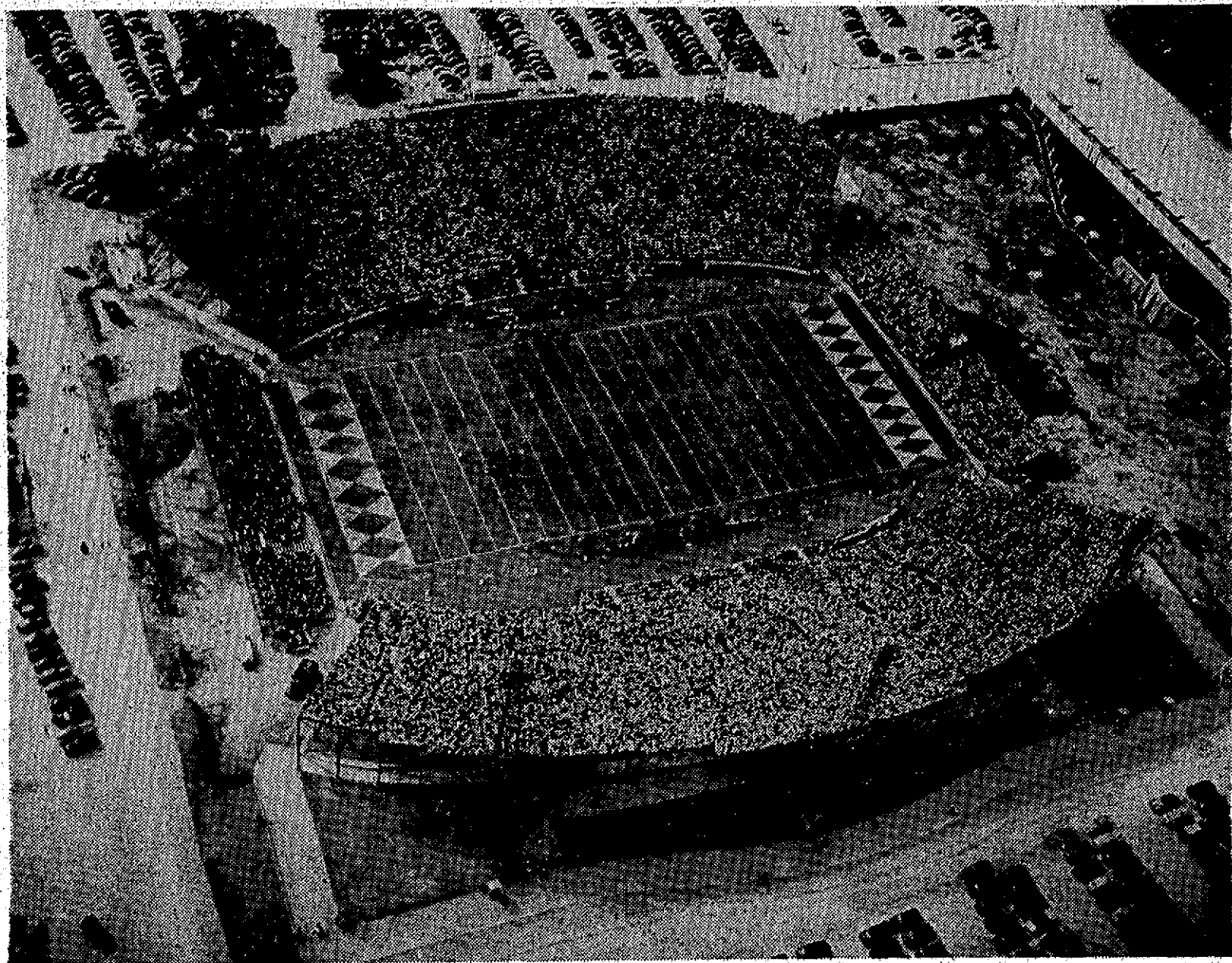
We would take this Frenchman of long ago for a drive north of the city. Not far from the first little village he would see wonderful developments. The Alabama Power Company has its Barry Steam Plant there. The Mathieson Chemical Company and the Courtaulds, Inc., rayon plants, are nearby.

Many of your parents or relatives work in the offices and plants which you have read about in this book. Perhaps you have heard them talk of these places. This book has told you what an interesting past Mobile has. From this past, a great city has arisen. Mobile looks ahead to a challenging future.



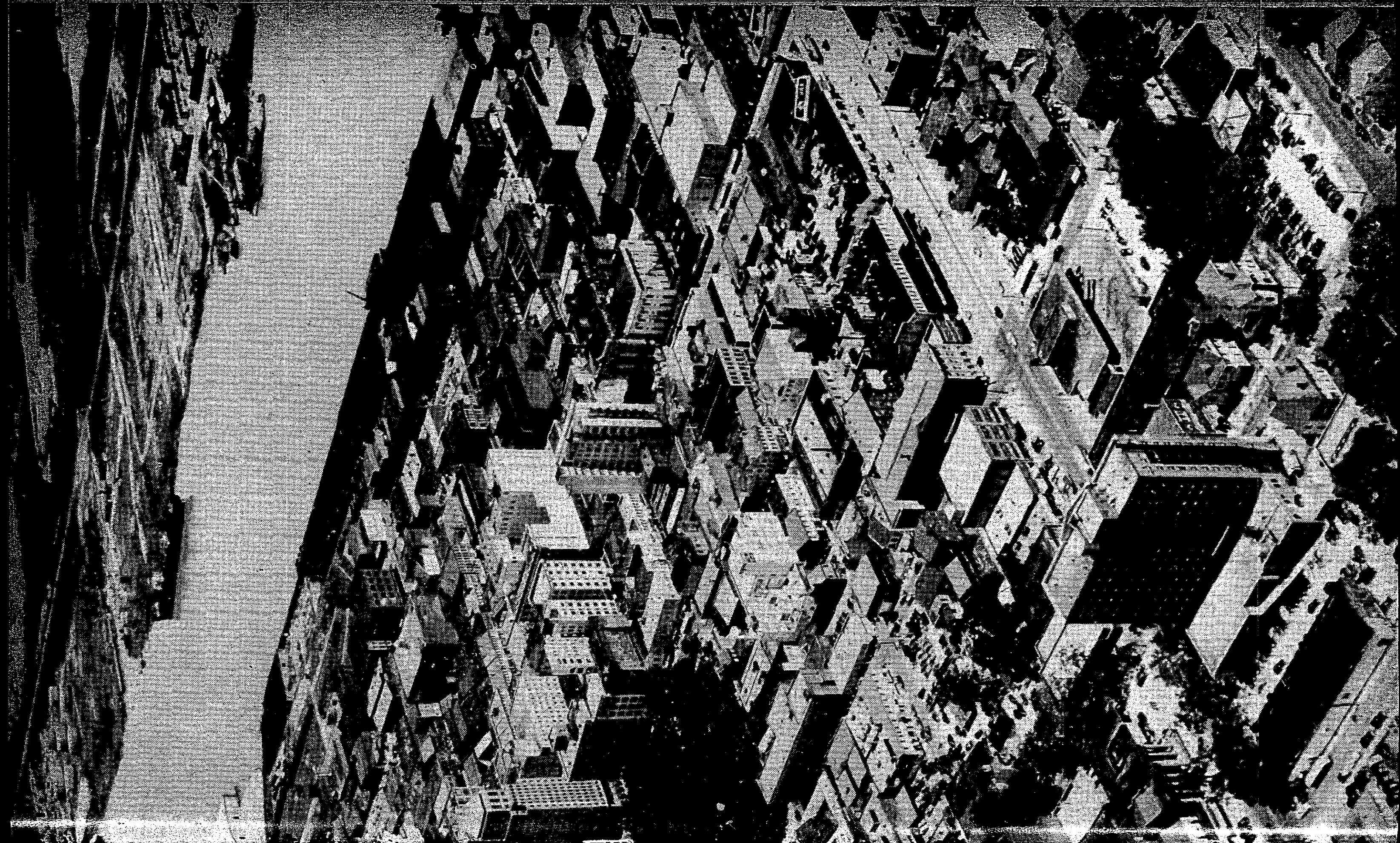
Alabama State Docks at Mobile.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler



Ladd Stadium, where football games and outdoor affairs are held. It was erected as a memorial to the late Mr. Ernest F. Ladd, President of the Merchants' National Bank, who had a great interest in sports.

Courtesy, Mr. R. B. Chandler



THE CHOCTAW TRADING HOUSE—1803-1822

*By Fr. Aloysius Plaisance, O.S.B.**

INTRODUCTION

The United States government in the early 1790's began to consider some definite plans for the control of the Indian trade. President Washington repeatedly called upon the Congress to formulate a policy towards supplying the trade necessities of the Indians with the purpose being to win their friendship and to overcome the influence that British and Spanish traders had gained over them. In 1795 Congress voted an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars to establish trading posts, to be managed by the War Department but under the direct supervision of the President. Two such posts, or factories, as they were rightfully called, were established in the southern regions; one at Coleraine, on the St. Mary's river, in Georgia and the other at Tellico Block-House, one hundred miles south of Knoxville, in the South West Territory.

Congress in 1796 appropriated one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the extension of the factory system and set down regulations governing the conducting of the factory business. The whole thing was considered as an experiment, and so there were no new factories erected until 1802, when four new posts were begun. One of these was the factory built at Fort St. Stephens for the Choctaw Indians.

The factory system was destined to be set with many difficulties. During the War of 1812, the British destroyed five of the factories; the merchandising policies of supplying the various posts were not always the most business like; the constant competition of the private trader caused a diminution of business; and the pressure exerted by the American Fur Company finally brought about its downfall.

*This chapter of Father Plaisance's study of the Federal Indian Trading House is one covering the detailed history of the Choctaw Trading house on the Tombigbee River in Alabama. Other Chapters of the dissertation are to be printed in the Historical Journals of the several states in which these Trading Houses were located.

When it was determined that the two Southern factories, one for the Creeks and the other for the Cherokees were successful in their operations, the War Department under the direction of Henry Dearborn early in 1802 decided upon opening a factory for the Choctaws. These Indians inhabited the southern central regions of the Mississippi Territory, the southwestern part of the present state of Alabama. In the summer of 1802, Dearborn directed Governor W. C. C. Claiborne to make recommendations for a suitable site for the establishment.¹

"The government of the United States having concluded on establishing a trading house for the accommodation of the Choctaws, goods to the amount of ten thousand dollars will be sent by water for commencing the establishment. I will thank you to inform me as soon as you can conveniently of the most eligible situation for the factory to be established. As soon as a spot is fixed upon, measures will be taken for erecting suitable buildings for the store and the residence of the Factor.

A similar establishment on a smaller scale will be made at the Chicasaw Bluffs for the accommodation of the Chicasaws.

Agents for superintending those factories will be sent out from here in the course of the summer."²

Claiborne acknowledged the receipt of this order and replied that although "I cannot at present give a decided opinion as to the most eligible spot for the establishing of a trading house . . . but I am inclined to think that some convenient site on the Tombigbee River near the mouth of the Alabama would best answer the views of the government. . . ."³

¹Dunbar Rowland, *Letter Books of W.C.C. Claiborne* (6 vols. Jackson, Miss., 1917), I, 150. (Hereafter cited as LB WCCC) Henry Dearborn, War Department, to Governor W.C.C. Claiborne, June 7, 1802.

²*ibid.*

³*ibid.*, I, 151. W.C.C. Claiborne, Natchez, to H. Dearborn, July 20, 1802.

Dearborn agreed with Claiborne as to the propriety of establishing the trading house on the Tombigbee and even offered to dispatch a military guard for the protection of the public goods.⁴ The attitude of the Spaniards at Mobile offered some concern to the government; Claiborne wrote to General James Wilkinson expressing his personal opinion of delaying the opening of the factory until it was made certain that the Spanish would permit the movement of goods past Mobile at a not too heavy duty. "The last proceedings at Orleans, rendering it uncertain, how far the trade of the Mobile and Mississippi, may be embarrassed, induce me to think it unsafe for the present to venture the establishment in that quarter."⁵

Joseph Chambers, the newly appointed factor for the trading house, arrived in Natchez in the fall of 1802, along with a large supply of goods to be used at his new establishment.⁶ During his stay at Natchez, Chambers busied himself in the office of Claiborne.⁷ In a letter to Dearborn, Claiborne praises the industriousness of Chambers. "Mr. Chambers, the Factor greatly regrets the delay of his business; he seems to have the welfare of the institution much at heart and will, in my opinion, execute the duties of his trust with fidelity and propriety. Until the site for the factory is finally determined on, which I sincerely hope will be done in a few weeks, I have requested Mr. Chambers to remain with me, for his assistance, which he has been polite enough to tender, I find very essential in my office."⁸

It wasn't long before a definite site was picked for the Choctaw factory; it was to be located at Fort St. Stephens, a former Spanish fort on the Tombigbee and construction on the factory buildings was begun in the spring of 1803.⁹ In describing the factory buildings, Pickett in his *History of Alabama* says, "The parsonage of the old Spanish church

⁴ibid, I, 227-228. H(enry) D(earborn), War Department to W.C.C. Claiborne, Sept. 11, 1802.

⁵ibid, I, W.C.C. Claiborne, Washington, M.T. to (James Wilkinson), Nov. 16, 1802.

⁶ibid.

⁷ibid, I, 260. W.C.C. Claiborne, Natchez, to Henry Dearborn, January 17, 1803.

⁸ibid.

⁹National Archives, Record Group 75, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Trade. (Hereafter cited as BIA, OIT). Vouchers of Choctaw Factory dated 1803. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

was used as a skin house, and the old block-house served the purpose of the government store."¹⁰ Gaines, writing his recollections in later years, describes the factory buildings as follows: "The old Spanish fort St. Stephens, was located immediately on the bluff of the river; one of the block-houses was in a good state of preservation and was occupied as the store. There was an extensive frame warehouse, a room in which was used as the land office, and a frame dwelling which had been the officers quarters, all enclosed on three sides with pickets and a ditch, the river forming the defenses on the fourth. The frame dwelling was occupied as a residence by the United States Factor."¹¹

A check through the vouchers of the factory for 1803, shows that a quantity of timber, nails, iron, etc. was needed to repair the buildings selected by Captain Thomas Swaine, the local military commander.¹² The construction work was begun in April of 1803 and the buildings seemingly were in good enough state to receive the first shipment of goods that arrived at the new factory on May 3rd.¹³

Great hopes must have been held for the success of the factory. A large amount of merchandise was forwarded to it during the first two years of its operation. Between May 4, 1803 and October 6, 1805, a total value of goods estimated at \$40,000 was sent to the factory. The first shipment of goods that arrived at the factory on May 3, 1803, was worth \$13,562.52.¹⁴ The next large amount was received in June, 1804, amounting to \$6,230.90.¹⁵ Sundry small amounts of goods were sent at various intervals until the following year when on October 6th, Chambers lists a shipment of goods valued at \$18,472.55.¹⁶

As soon as he moved into his quarters, Chambers began to trade with the Indians. He appears to have stood in well with the Indians and

¹⁰Albert James Pickett, *History of Alabama*, (2 vols., Charleston, Walker and James, 1851), II, 184.

¹¹George S. Gaines, "Notes on the Early Days of South Alabama," *Mobile Register*, June 19, 1872.

¹²BIA, OIT, Vouchers of Choctaw Factory dated 1803. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

¹³*ibid.*

¹⁴BIA, OIT, Inventory of Merchandise Received May 4, 1803 by Joseph Chambers. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

¹⁵BIA, OIT, Inventory of Merchandise Received in June, 1804. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

¹⁶BIA, OIT, Inventory of Merchandise Received on October 6, 1805. Ft. St.

the government officials of the Mississippi Territory. Governor Claiborne in writing to him speaks of his ability of managing the factory . . . "I doubt not, but that institution will flourish under your judicious management."¹⁷ Besides being government factor, Chambers was also Register of Land Claims and a member of the Board of Commissoiners for settling land claims.¹⁸ It was not uncommon that a factor would take upon himself other duties or appointments other than conducting the factory business. Later on it will be seen that Gaines was to be appointed postmaster while remaining factor of the Choctaw house. Pickett characterizes Chambers as a "man of a well-cultivated mind, and of business capacity."¹⁹

Due to his many duties, Chambers in 1804 wrote his friend, George S. Gaines, then living at Gallatin, Tennessee, asking him to come to St. Stephen and assist him in managing the factory.²⁰ The proposal Gaines readily accepted and late in 1804 he arrived at St. Stephen and was immediately put to work by Chambers. "The day after my arrival at Stephens, being familiar with the business of a retail store, Mr. Chambers gave me charge of the Trading House, his time being occupied in the discharge of the duties of Register of the Land Office and member of the Board of Commissioners for settling land claims."²¹ In 1805, Gaines was officially appointed assistant factor.²² The following year, Chambers resigned his factorship returning to his home in North Carolina and Gaines was made factor with Thomas Malone as assistant.²³

One of the financial problems facing the newly established factory was the payment of duties to the Spanish authorities at Mobile on all goods passing to or from the factory by way of Mobile. Governor Claiborne realized this difficulty and wrote the Spanish governor at Pensacola seeking a relaxation of any such charges. "The goods transmitted to this factory and the peltry etc. exported therefrom are the property of the United States, and I persuade myself that on their passage by way of Mobile no duties will be exacted or interruption offered by the au-

¹⁷LB WCCC, II, 20. W.C.C. Claiborne, New Orleans, to Joseph Chambers, March 8, 1804,

¹⁸Gaines, *op. cit.*, June 19, 1872.

¹⁹Pickett, *op. cit.*, II, 184.

²⁰Gaines, *op. cit.*, June 19, 1872.

²¹*ibid.*

²²Pickett, *op. cit.*, II, 233.

²³Gaines, *op. cit.*, June 19, 1872.

thorities of Spain."²⁴ To which request the Spanish governor replied that it was not in his power to comply with such a request and duties will be collected on all goods passing Mobile.²⁵

Having received such a reply from the Spanish governor, Claiborne instructed Chambers to pay the duties demanded but under protest, "if duties are demanded it may be advisable to pay the same, not however without making formal protest against the proceeding. . . ."²⁶

Chambers and later Gaines, continued to pay duties on all furs and peltries exported and on all goods and merchandise brought to the factory by way of Mobile. These duties created a heavy financial drain on the factory as may be ascertained by the following accounts of payments made by Chambers to the Spanish:

"Received of Mr. Joseph Chambers, Commissioner of the River Tombigbee, one hundred and eighty two dollars, sixty two and a half cents for duties on entrance and clearance of peltries bound from this port to the port of New Orleans now on board the Spanish Schooner Cicila, Joseph Manra Master. For his Security I give this at Mobile this thirteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and four.

Michael Aclara

A copy of the Spanish receipt."²⁷ And the following one was paid in 1806.

"A list of charges paid on merchandise received at the Choctaw factory from William Davy esquire Principal Agent of Indn. factories by Joseph Saul Esq. . . . and of duties paid by Joseph Chambers Agent . . . on peltry etc. shipped from Choctaw Trading House.
1806,

Jan. 30th The following sums were paid by J. Saul, Agent

²⁴LB WCCC, II, 19. W.C.C. Claiborne, New Orleans to Gov. Folch, March 7, 1804.

²⁵ibid, II, 38. V. Folch, New Orleans, to Gov. Claiborne, March 15, 1804.

²⁶ibid, II, 52. W.C.C. Claiborne, New Orleans, to Joseph Chambers, Ft. St. Stephens, March 21, 1804.

²⁷BIA, OIT. Receipt for Duties Paid Spanish at Mobile, April 13, 1804. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

at New Orleans, per his corrected list of expenses, dated August 30, 1805.

Demurage of Schooner St. Piere, Sloop Delia and Schooner Harriett at Mobile, being detained there by the Spanish Custom House	\$248
Duties paid by Messrs. Croudson and Patton on the Delias and St. Pieres cargoes	\$466.08

March 6th	Cash paid by J. Chambers to Mig. Aclara the Spanish Collector of the Custom at Mobile for duties on peltry etc., shipped on board the Schooner St. Piere & Antonio	\$398.84 ²⁸
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From these two account sheets it is evident that Chambers paid the Spanish customs at Mobile both for the merchandise he received and the furs and peltries he exported.

Just what kind of goods did the factor have on hand with which to barter for the Indians' furs and peltries? It might be interesting to present a list of merchandise that the factory had on hand and was used in trading with the Indians. Such a list made by Joseph Chambers. "Inventory of goods on hand at the Choctaw Trading House 1st October, 1805:

1 ps. Scarlet Cloth	34 yds.	
1 ps. Scarlet Cloth	31 yds.	
7¾ yds.		\$178.25
20½ yds. Blue Cloth		
17¼ yds. Green Cloth		80.00
2 ps. Green Cloth	48½ yds.	96.25
1 ps. Coating	23¼ yds.	
1 ps. Coating	8 yds.	
1 ps. Coating	25¼ yds.	
1 ps. Coating	25¾ yds.	
1 ps. Coating	25 yds.	
1 ps. Coating	25 yds.	
1 ps. Coating	24¾ yds.	
10¾ yds.		

²⁸BIA, OIT, A List of Charges Paid on Merchandise Received at Choctaw Factory in 1806. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

6 yds.		\$101.74
17.8 yds. Brown Cloth		6.37
26 yds. Cashmere		
1 ps. Elastic Cloth	24 yds.	
1 ps. Elastic Cloth	24 yds.	
1 ps. Elastic Cloth	29 yds.	
12 yds. Elastic Cloth		
8¾ yds. Elastic Cloth		
1 ps. Elastic Cloth	23 yds.	80.00
96 yds.		
5 ps. linsey	38 yds.	53.33
54 yds. olive thicksett		
½ ps. Calimanco		
¼ ps. London Jeans		
2 ps. Gingham	73 yds.	
49 yds. Gingham		
2 lb. Scotch thread		
½ lb. Scotch thread		
¼ doz. ink holders		
1/12 doz. Testaments		
2 Gro. Coat buttons		
8 M. cut sprigs		
1 doz. fishing hooks and lines		
7/12 doz. Shoemakers Nippers		
½ doz. Awl hafts		
2/12 doz. Peging hafts		
10/12 doz. Peging hafts		
1/3 doz. Taylors Shears		
1 Gro. Shoe tacks		
2/12 doz. Taylors Shears		
1/3 doz. Shoemakers rubbers		
1-5/12 doz. butchers knives		
1/12 doz. handsaw files		
11/12 flat files		
½ yd. Twilled Nankean		
2 lbs. twist		
3-1/3 doz. Bobbin		
7/12 Gro. Brass sleeve links		
3-2/3 doz. Blk. hatter bitts		
4-11/12 doz. Tin'd. hatter bitts		
4 papers head stall buckles		

4 papers throat latches for buckles	
1 doz. snaffle bitts	
8/12 doz. snaffle bits	
5/12 Gro. head and throat buckles	
1/12 doz. Compasses	
½ doz. Screw Augurs	
2 doz. Socket Chissels	
7/12 doz. Carpenter's adzes	
½ doz. Socket Gouges	
¼ doz. hinges	
4/12 doz. spike gimblets	
4 doz. thumb latches	
5/12 doz. plain irons	
¼ doz. candle sticks	
2/12 doz. two foot rules	
1 set large scale beams and weights	
4 sets large shutter hinges	
3 pr. hooks and hinges	
10/12 doz. coopers adzes	
4 Maul rings	
1 coopers Froe	\$217.90
1-2/12 doz. lanterns	
2 horse collars	
5/12 doz. best Girths	
½ doz. linen Girths	
½ doz. half gallon measures	
2/12 doz. painted jacks	
39 Rifle Guns	
57 Axes	581.97
1 half bushel measure	
1 peck and half peck	
½ keg linseed oil	
1 keg putty	
1/12 doz. cow bells	
8 pair coarse shoes	
1 pair large scales	
1 pair small scales	
5 broad axes	
34 hatchets	
1 cask No. 8 nails	
20 lbs. No. 12 nails	

26 doz. weeding hoes	
1 gun lock	
2-¾ lbs. brass wire	
5 lb. iron wire	
8/12 doz. saw sets	
2-7/12 gro. cow skin whips	\$317.39
5 white Brushes red tips	
27 assort. colored brushes	
6 brown brushes	
1 military plume	
7 fancy brushes	
8 fancy plumes	86.25
7 frying pans	
2-8/12 doz. shovels	
¾ doz. spades	
1 steel pit saw	
1 steel cut saw	
2 fabbots crawley steel	
½ box white glass	
½ doz. cut saw files	
¾ doz. nonesopretties	
10 ¼ prs. ferrit	
½ doz. fire glasses	
38 prs. china ribband	\$224.36
1152 bunches beads	
¼ doz. horn combs.	
Silver Broaches	
Small wrist bands	149.61 ¾
10/12 doz. Sistercy hankf.	
10/12 doz. Surge Remols	
29 yds. blue & yellow calico	
7 ½ yds. blue & yellow calico	
2 shirts	31.37 ¼
2 doz. ridding combs	
½ paper fire steels	
1 brass cock	
1 5/12 doz. Rimers	
25 lbs. vermilion	
25 lb. Red lead	51.69 ½
1/12 doz. Glass Tumblers	
1 doz. Enameled Tea Pots	

¾ doz. quart mugs	\$5.74 ½
44 casks gun powder	
10 barrels gun powder	
4 half barrels gun powder	
1 qt. cask	930.00
1 Bale Blankets No. 5	
5 prs. 2 pt. Blankets	
1 Bale Blankets No. 13	
6 prs. 2 pt. Blankets	
4 Blankets	
4 Rugs	213.33
1 Jack Screw	
1/12 doz. Bibles	5.48
2 ps. Blankets	
5 cover lids	80.42
10 Blankets	5.43
16 ½ doz. silver rings	16.50
3 Barrels Flour	36.00

	\$3725.13
add errors	11.84

	\$3736.97

(signed October 1, 1805

Joseph Chambers, Agent Choctaw Trading House."²⁹

The above inventory was made in the fall of the year after most of the trading had taken place and the stock on hand was comparatively low. Just two weeks after Chambers made out the inventory, he received a shipment of goods worth over \$18,000.

The balance sheet of July 1, 1806, shows how the business had increased to a considerable extent. Stock on hand amounted to over \$26,000. One of the most distressing items that was a constant drawback to the success of the factory were the debts due, mostly from Indians. In 1806 these totaled \$4,000 but gradually increased to equal one third of the total assets of the factory.

²⁹BIA, OIT. Inventory of Merchandise on Hand, October 1, 1805. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

"The Choctaw Factory in A/C with the United States
 "Dr.

1806	To Amount, stock on hand, 1st July	\$26,420.29	¼
	To Amount of merchandise received from Joseph Saul Esq. Agent at New Orleans per order of Willm. Davy Esq. P.A.I. factories	112.57	
	To Amount of Sundry charges paid by Joseph Saul Esq. Agent at New Orleans on merchandise received from and by order of William Davy Esq. P.A.In.F.	2,681.35	½
	To Amount due Joseph Chambers Factor, and his assistant pr. account herewith forwarded	977.51	
	To Balance per Contra	1,386.86	

Cr.

	By Amount of Sundry dfts. forwarded to William Davy, Esq. P.A.I.F.	\$4,594.73	½
	By Amount of peltry etc. do do	5,012.00	
	By Amount of Contingent Expenses as per acct. and Vouchers forw.	344.57	
	By Amount of Charges on merchandise as per acct. forw.	1,155.14	
	By Amount of Cash paid for merchandise as pr. Vouchers forw.	27.00	
	By Balance vizt. as per inventory		
	Merchandise on hand \$11,383.23		
	Peltry & other produce 4,504.10		
	Cash 543.46	½	
	Debts due the factory 4,014.34	¾	
		20,445.14	¼
		\$31,578.58	¾

Chaktaw Trading House St. Stephens, M.T.
 July 1, 1806

Geo. S. Gaines, Assistant

Agt. to the Chaktaw Trading House"³⁰

³⁰BIA, OIT. Factory Account with the United States, July 1, 1806. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaw), 1803-1806.

In the following years the Indians debts mounted to over \$12,000 and brought from John Mason, Superintendent of Indian Trade, a word of caution regarding them. . . . "Your Indian debts, I remark, by your last returns are considerable and particularly that of the dead chief, Hoomostubee. I must call your particular attention to this subject and enjoin you to take care that these debts are regularly watched and called in from time to time, as I find in all quarters that Indian debts which are suffered to sleep for a certain time, can no longer be revived with any chance of collection."³¹

Under the management of Gaines, the factory's business expanded and though the Spaniards at Mobile continued to extract heavy duties on all imports and exports, the factory prospered. Gaines gives us an interesting account of the business at this time.

"The business of the trading house increased its popularity—brought hunters from all parts of the nation. Hunters of the Creek settlement at the falls of the Black Warrior came frequently to trade; and I had occasional visits from Creeks residing beyond the Alabama River. All appeared to be well pleased with our trade. My instructions from the Superintendent of Indian Trade made it my duty to be careful not to sell the Indians a damaged article of goods without pointing out the damage and reducing the price to what I considered its actual value; when blankets, shawls or cotton and linen goods appeared to me to be lighter or more flimsey and less durable than they purported to be, to point out the defect and reduce the price also."³²

It appears clearly evident that slaves were used in occasional jobs around the factory. although spoken of as "his Negro man" or "my Negro man," these must have been slaves as payment was not made to them but rather to the white person to whom they belonged. A check through the factory's Day Book reveals such payments. The payment for their service was fifteen dollars per month, this of course going to the owners of the slaves.³³ One of the slaves so used was Gaines' own man, named

³¹BIA, OIT. Record Copies, Letters Sent (Hereafter cited as RC LS), vol. B, 1809-1812. John Mason, Georgetown, to George Gaines, Choctaw Trading House, Aug. 28, 1810.

³²Gaines, *op. cit.*, June 27, 1872.

³³BIA, OIT. Day Book for the Three Months Ending the 30th of September, 1808. Account Sheet dated September 30, 1808. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaw), 1808-1809.

Jacob, for whom Gaines charged the factory the regular fifteen dollars per month.

"Paid Nicholas Perkins for 3 months labor rendered to the Trading House by his Negro man Jeff per Rect. of this date ----- \$45.00
Paid Thomas Malone for 3 months labor rendered to the Trading House by his Negro Man Dave per Rect. of this date ----- \$45.00
Paid myself for 3 months labor rendered the Trading House by my Negro man Jacob ending this day pr. Rect. of this date -- \$45.00"³⁴

Thus it is seen that the assistant factor, Thomas Malone, also owned a slave who performed labors for the factory.

The type of work done by the slaves is shown by a notation in the Day Book of the year 1809, dated March 31st, "Paid Thomas Malone for 3 months service rendered the Trading House by his Negro man Dave in splitting rails, making fences around the public buildings, handling skins, etc. at \$15 per month."³⁵

Besides the aforementioned handy men, there was employed an interpreter and a skins man. During the summer the furs and hides received from the Indians were overhauled often and beaten by the skinsman for the purpose of keeping out the worms. In the fall they were packed in bales and shipped to Philadelphia by way of Mobile and New Orleans. An agent, Joseph Saul, was located at New Orleans to receive the furs and pelts there and then arrange for their shipment to Philadelphia. After 1807, when the Superintendent of Indian Trade Office was opened at Georgetown, all such items were shipped to Georgetown.

The factory's trading with the Indians was done mostly on a bartering basis. An Indian would come in and be in need of some powder and flints or clothing, or cooking utensils. Some trades were done in great amounts; others in small ones. On January 10, 1809, Gaines records a barter with an Indian who had a canoe which he wanted to barter. For the canoe he received 2 yards of strouds, worth \$3.50.³⁶ Another small trade was made by an Indian who brought in four deer skins and for which Gaines gave him 1½ pounds of powder and eight flints. The

³⁴ibid.

³⁵BIA, OIT. Day Book for the First Three Months of 1809. Account dated March 31, 1809. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1808-1809.

³⁶BIA, OIT. Day Book for the First Three Months of 1809. Account dated January 10, 1809. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaw), 1808-1809.

value of the four deer skins, whose weight amounted to $8\frac{1}{4}$ pounds was marked down as \$1.63.³⁷

Other trades were larger than these mentioned and might be as the one made on Aug. 4, 1808, where deer, coon and fox skins and beeswax was brought by an Indian and he received a varied assortment of goods in return.

"Bartered with Indians

1 yd. Swanskin		\$1.00
1 oz. vermilion		.25
1 3 point Blanket		4.00
2/3 doz. flints	@ .18 $\frac{3}{4}$.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ point Blankets	3.50	7.00
3 butcher knives	.25	.75
2 black silk hkfs.	1.50	3.00
18 lb. lead	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$	3.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
12 $\frac{5}{8}$ yds. muslin	.50	6.31 $\frac{1}{4}$

		\$25.81
Received in payment:		
42 deer skins	111 lb. @ 20	22.20
7 coon skins	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$.87 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 foxes skins	.25	1.00
5 lb. beeswax	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$.93 $\frac{3}{4}$

		\$25.01
1 dressed deer skin		.80

		\$25.81 ³⁸

Another barter example as the following depicts what several Indians might have needed; their 206 deer skins being the results of winter hunts.

"Bartered with Indians

48 yds. calico	@ .75	\$36.00
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³⁷BIA, OIT. Day Book for the First Three Months of 1809. Account dated January 5, 1809. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaws), 1808-1809.

³⁸BIA, OIT. Day Book for the Three Months Ending 30th of September, 1808. Account dated August 4, 1808. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaws), 1808-1809.

4 brass kettles 17 3/5 lbs.	1.25	22.00
3 1/4 lbs. vermilion	3.00	9.75
3 axes	1.50	4.50
3 pewter basons 11 1/3 lbs.	.75	8.50
2 cow bells	1.25	\$ 2.50
8 doz. vest buttons	.25	2.00
10 prs. scissors		2.50
2 1/2 yds. scarlet cloth	4.00	10.00
2 pt. jack knives	.37 1/2	.75
5 1/3 yds. Russia Duck	.75	4.00
2 doz. needles	.12 1/2	.25
1 ivory comb		.37 1/2
2 C. Flints	@ 1.25	2.50
1 piece tape		.50
4 1/2 oz. thread	.25	1.12 1/2
1 pt. Jack		.37 1/2

\$107.63

Received in payment:

206 deer skins 538 1/4 lbs. @ 20 \$107.63³⁹

It will be noticed by examining the above trades with the Indians that deer skins were the predominant article of trade. Such a large supply of deer skins naturally caused the Superintendent of Trade in Georgetown to be concerned over the tremendous number of skins on hand. In the spring of 1808, John Mason wrote Gaines regarding this . . . "I am sorry to see that of \$7313.63 due in cost of the two invoices there is as much as \$5690 in deer skins. This article will inevitably destroy the funds of this establishment unless we can take them in much smaller quantities or at by far lower prices. I received a few days since account of sales from 30,894 lbs. deer skins and 81 skins, whereof 23,270 lbs. and the 81 skins were from your Trading House. 7624 lb. from Chickasaw, shipped by Genl. Shee last summer to Bordeaux. They were invoiced by him at 26 1/2c per lb. and the 81 skins at 2/3 of \$1.00 each, and at this rate amounted on board including \$26.00 shipping charges to \$8,246.71. The net amount of sales 9788 francs equal to \$1835.25, a clear loss of \$6411.60. I enclose you a copy of the sales for your information. By which you will see that much of this loss arose from the bad state of the skins but

³⁹BIA, OIT. Day Book for the Three Months Ending 30th June, 1809. Account dated June 7, 1809. Ft. St. Stephens (Choctaws), 1808-1809.

that the best, which are said in the accompanying papers to have been quite scarce brought only 3, 60/100 francs ea. equal to 66½c nearly. Can you advise at your factory any means of avoiding such sacrifices. At Amsterdam whither a shipment was also made, Tho. Gales not yet received, the accounts are discouraging and in the country there is no market for them."⁴⁰

From this it is evident the Superintendent was concerned over the large amount of deer skins taken in by the southern factories and there being no market for them. Although the factories listed their take of deer skins as profit, still this continual acceptance of them constituted a tremendous loss to the trading fund. It is no wonder that less than three weeks after this letter was sent out, Mason gave orders to the southern factories to cease sending their deer skins off from their factories. The instructions on this point were contained in a letter to all the southern factories . . . "Sir, under the present depression of the general embargo, sometime since laid by congress, it is hopeless to expect a sale at the sea Ports and to export them is impracticable until times change, then it is useless to accumulate them in the hands of our agents at Orleans and elsewhere, where they can not be so well taken care of as at the factories. After receipt of this letter then. you will be pleased to send off no more Deer Skins from your factory this spring or summer unless differently directed by me. But you will retain them and give from time to time every possible attention to their preservation from worms and by frequent examinations and beatings and such other means as your experience has found best adopted to the purpose. The furs and other skins you will continue to send off as usual."⁴¹

Such an order naturally caused a dropping off of business for these factories and an increase in operating expenses. Men had to be employed to beat the skins occasionally and additional storage space had to be built to house the accumulated deer skins.

The balance sheets for the period from December 31, 1807 to June 30, 1811, show the loss sustained by the factory, due primarily to the drop in the deer skin market and secondarily to the large amount of Indian debts. Of the total value of deer skins taken in and estimated by

⁴⁰BIA, OIT. RC LS, Vol. A, 1807-1809, J(ohn) M(ason), Georgetown, to George Gaines, Chaktaw, March 2, 1808.

⁴¹BIA, OIT. RC LS, Vol. A, 1807-1809, John Mason, Georgetown, to Thos. Linnard, David Hogg, Geo. S. Gaines, John B. Treat, March 18, 1808.

Gaines to be \$18,632.90, the Superintendent's office noted that a loss of 25% would occur.⁴² Estimated loss on bad Indian debts during this period was marked as \$1,997.43.⁴³ These two items added to a recorded loss of \$5,535.72 for the 3½ years so noted, gave the factory a total loss amounting to \$10,352.54.⁴⁴ Such a loss is explained by the Superintendent in a note entered beneath the balance sheets . . . "This factory has suffered much by the late depression in deer skins, almost the only article it takes in. The expenses paid for it have been above the ordinary proportion; because of the heavy duties paid to the Spaniards on the passage of both merchandise and peltries on the Mobile, and of the great expenses incurred at Orleans (to which place its peltries are sent for sale) in packing, preserving, etc. It will be remarked that its amount of traffic has been large.

One half of the debts are estimated bad; this, with Indian debts, is as little as can be expected; yet it is indispensably necessary to credit them to a certain degree."⁴⁵

The trading restrictions that were laid upon the factory goods at Mobile by the Spanish authorities forced the Superintendent to try to find other ways of supplying the trading house other than by Mobile. Ever since the beginning of the establishment in 1803, friction had been existing between the Spanish and American officials over the charging of the 12% duty by the Spanish at Mobile. This friction reached a high pitch when in the spring of 1809, the Spanish refused to allow a shipment of lead and powder intended for the factory from New Orleans to pass Mobile.⁴⁶ Mason considered this refusal a trick on the part of the Spanish so as to force the Indians to come to them for their supplies of lead and powder since the Americans would no longer be able to supply them. He was determined to supply the factory with all the necessities and wrote Gaines to search out any new means that might be used, such as shipments overland from Natchez or by portages from the Tennessee River to the Tombigbee.⁴⁷

The overland route from Natchez to St. Stephens was too expensive

⁴²American State Papers, Indian Affairs, I, 787. Choctaw Factory Account Sheet, Dec. 31, 1807 to Sept. 30, 1811.

⁴³ *ibid.*

⁴⁴ *ibid.*

⁴⁵ *ibid.*

⁴⁶BIA, OIT. RC LS, Vol. B, 1809-1812, Mason to Gaines, June 17, 1809.

⁴⁷ *ibid.*

so the goods continued to be sent to New Orleans and then via Mobile to the factory with the exception of the lead and powder which items the Spanish continued to forbid to be sent through Mobile. The other route available for supplying the factory was via the Ohio River to Smithland, a point near the mouths of the Cumberland and the Tennessee Rivers up the Tennessee to Colbert's Ferry, and thence be hauled overland to the Tombigbee River, where the goods would be sent by boat down to St. Stephens. In the summer of 1810, Mason decided to try this route and ordered 2000 lbs. of lead and powder from a Major James Morrison of Lexington, Kentucky.⁴⁸ Gaines was to proceed along the route north to Smithland and there meet the shipment and convey it back to his factory. On his journey north, Mason instructed Gaines to be on the lookout for a new site for the factory. Mason was considering closing the one at Chickasaw Bluffs and the Choctaw house and consolidating them both at a point higher up on the Tombigbee.⁴⁹

Gaines writes an interesting account of his journey to the Tennessee River to meet the goods there sent by way of the Ohio . . . "In October 1810, I received instructions from the Secretary of War to proceed to the Chickasaw Nation and endeavor to obtain permission of the Indians to open a wagon road from Colbert's Ferry to Cotton Gin Port, on the Tombigbee, and make arrangements to transport the goods thence to St. Stephens. I set out immediately, in obedience to my instructions; had an interview with the leading chiefs of the Chickasaws, who objected to opening the wagon road, but promised me facilities and safety for the transportation of the goods for the Choctaw Trading House, on pack-horses, at a very moderate expense.

"I continued my journey to Smithland, at the mouth of the Cumberland, where I found the supplies in the charge of Wood Brothers, with the exception of lead, which I was instructed to purchase. Hearing that a boatload of lead had been sunk in the Ohio, below Fort Massac, I proceeded to the place, and aided by the commanding officer at Massac, I purchased the quantity required, brought it up in a public barge to Smithland, engaged a careful bargeman and crew, with a good barge to transport the goods from there, and with the lead I had purchased, to Colbert's Ferry on the Tennessee. I then returned on horseback to Colbert's Ferry, made arrangements for receiving and 'packing' the goods to

⁴⁸BIA, OIT. RC LS, Vol. B, 1809-1812, Mason to Gaines, Aug. 28, 1810.

⁴⁹ibid.

Maj. Pitchlyn, at the north of the Octibbeha, below Cotton Gin Port. I proceeded to Maj. Pitchlyn's and with his aid, arranged for transporting the goods down the Tombigbee to St. Stephens. It is a little remarkable that all my orders were carried out with precision and promptness, and the goods received at St. Stephens in good order without the loss of an article."⁵⁰

Some authors have overemphasized the use of the overland route used by Gaines in supplying the factory at St. Stephens. The overland route from the Tennessee River to the Tombigbee was never used to any great extent. The distance was some eighty miles and this was quite a lengthy journey for goods to be carried on the backs of horses and mules. The Indians not permitting a road to be built, Gaines had to rely upon the old ordinary foot path, using pack horses and such means of transportation of heavy goods was slow and expensive.

By 1813, the Americans had been able to force the Spanish out of Mobile and thus the port was free of any restrictive duties on the factory imports and exports, and thereby ending the necessity of shipping goods down the Tennessee and overland to the Tombigbee. The total amount of goods sent by way of the overland route was comparatively small.

In 1812, the goods destined for the factory from Georgetown were dispatched by way of the Tennessee River. The shipment was rather small, valued at only \$3598.96.⁵¹ Gaines gives an interesting account of his going to meet these goods.⁵² Evidently he was capable of getting along well with the military men as he was able to procure without any delay, a military guard to accompany him on this trip. Arriving at Major Pitchlyn's place on the Tombigbee, Gaines had a barge constructed and when the goods reached Pitchlyn's safely after their overland haul from Colbert's Ferry, he and his military guard loaded the goods on the barge and proceeded down to St. Stephens. Due to the unrest among the Indians and the likelihood that an attack might be made on the barge, Gaines had the barge boxed in with beef hides for protection against an attack from the shore . . . "I caused the barge to be boxed, as usual in those days. This was meant not only for the safety of the goods but for the protection of the rowers and steersman. I had the sides and top well lined

⁵⁰Gaines, *op. cit.*, July 3, 1872.

⁵¹BIA, OIT, RC LS, Vol. C., 1812-1816. Mason to Gaines, Jan. 19, 1813.

⁵²Gaines, *op. cit.*, July 3, 1872.

with heavy beef hides so as to make them entirely bullet-proof. Both ends of the 'boxing' were open, so that the steersman could see how to guide the barge . . . We were not attacked and arrived all safe at St. Stephens. Upon opening the goods they were found in good condition, with not a single article missing. These goods were greatly needed, and the trade was active during February 1813 and the ensuing spring months."⁵³

During 1811, the factory buildings began to show signs of decay and repairs were needed. Notwithstanding the fact that the removal of the factory to another place was being considered, Gaines had a new building constructed; this time it was made out of bricks, and Gaines moved into his new quarters in 1812 . . . "The old building of Fort St. Stephens, in which the goods of the Choctaw Trading House and the land office were kept since their establishment, becoming leaky and untenable, the goods of the Trading House and also the land office were removed in the early part of 1812 to a new brick building which I had erected in 1811, a few hundred yards west of the old Fort; perhaps the first brick building in the present State of Alabama, unless at Huntsville."⁵⁴

During the campaign against the Creeks, General Andrew Jackson ordered a supply of goods from the factory. Gaines insisted that a draft be given him in payment of the goods; the draft being made on the War Department. He gives the following account of this transaction:

"While Jackson was at Fort Claiborne he addressed an order to me as U. S. Factor, St. Stephens for blankets, strouds and shirting for our Indian warriors. I sent the goods, enclosing a bill requesting a draft on the War Department in payment. A friend of mine was present when he received my letter, and he told me that the General appeared vexed at my request for payment. He remarked—'What does Gaines mean? I knew him when he was a boy—all right.' My friend said, 'The goods are for the Indian trade, General, and probably Mr. Gaines has no instructions to furnish any of them to the army.' The General's face relaxed in a smile and, as he handed the bill to a member of his staff, he said: 'It's all right; prepare the draft'."⁵⁵

Gaines not only furnished supplies to Jackson during the Creek

⁵³ibid.

⁵⁴ibid.

⁵⁵ibid., July 10, 1872.

wars but he was very influential in gathering allies for him from among the Indians.

During the summer months of 1813, the Creek Indians had been on a rampage in southern Alabama and the massacre of Fort Mims had taken place. British ships were off the coast; one had anchored at Pensacola, with a large supply of munitions. It was expedient for the Americans to obtain as many allies as they could possibly do. Efforts were made to secure the continued friendship and actual military aid of the Choctaws, and Gaines was instrumental in persuading them to join with the Americans against the Creeks.⁵⁶

"While all was doubt and uncertainty as to the position which the Choctaws would assume, at this critical juncture, Pushmatahaw, the most enlightened and influential Chief of that nation, rode to St. Stephens and proposed to Mr. George S. Gaines to enlist several companies of his warriors in the American cause."⁵⁷

General Flournoy at Fort Charlotte at first was adverse to receiving the Choctaws as allies but was prevailed upon to admit them. He then "sent a messenger authorizing Gaines to go into the Choctaw nation to raise troops. The people gave a shout and all hearts were made glad. Everyone had feared that the Choctaws would join the Creeks, and now . . . it was believed they would actually assist the Americans."⁵⁸ A few days later at the council grounds of the Choctaws, Pushmatahaw was able to convince his tribes of the necessity of joining with the Americans. Gaines was present at this tribal meeting and at the end of the meeting the Choctaw warriors all shouted their approval of joining with the Americans by slapping their breasts and shouting; "All of them now slapped their breast, a general shout went up and Gaines was filled with joy at the result."⁵⁹

There was much speculation over the transferring of the factory to a point closer to the Choctaw tribe. Mason mentioned this in letters to Gaines in 1811 and again in January 1813 it seemed certain that the removal was not far off . . . "nothing has been decided on as yet with

⁵⁶Pickett, *op. cit.*, II, 290-292.

⁵⁷*ibid.*

⁵⁸*ibid.*

⁵⁹*ibid.*, II, 292.

respect to the removal of your factory—my opinion is that it ought to be removed—something will soon be done in the business and you shall be immediately advised of the result.”⁶⁰

It was not until the summer of 1815 that a final decision was made as to the removal of the factory from St. Stephens to a point further up the Tombigbee, “for the purpose of placing it further from the white settlements, and nearer to the Choctaw nation—a position at or near old Fort Confederation on the Tombigbee has been fixed.”⁶¹ A guard of soldiers had been arranged with the War Department by Mason to accompany Gaines and they were to assist him in erecting the buildings. Mason suggested erecting “a dwelling house of about 20 by 30 or 36 feet—a store and warehouse of the same dimensions, with some small out houses. . . .”⁶² This new place was to accommodate the Chickasaws as well. Mason instructed Gaines “to reconcile the Chaktaws to the removal and when done to induce the Chickasaws to trade at the same place.”⁶³

The factory was moved to its new site at Fort Confederation during the winter of 1815-1816 and trading began there in the spring of 1816. Business at the new establishment must have been consistently good during its early months of operation. In his fall quarterly accounts for 1816, Gaines showed that he had \$3,284 cash on hand and a total indebtedness of over \$10,000.⁶⁴

The government made plans to conduct a treaty with the Choctaw nation during the summer of 1816. Some ten thousand dollars worth of goods were to be given the Indians at this time. The Indian commissioners desired that the factory should furnish these goods and the new superintendent, Thomas L. McKenney wrote Gaines to this effect.⁶⁵ It seems obvious that McKenney had hoped to clear the shelves of the factory of all undesirable goods as well as any other items Gaines may have on hand and then begin the next year's business with a clean slate.⁶⁶

⁶⁰BIA, OIT, RC LS, Vol. C, 1812-1816. Mason to Gaines, Jan. 19, 1813.

⁶¹BIA, OIT, RC LS, Vol. C, 1812-1816. Mason to Gaines, Aug. 14, 1814.

⁶²*ibid.*

⁶³*ibid.*

⁶⁴BIA, OIT, Inventory of Merchandise on Hand, Sept. 30, 1816. Ft. St. Stephen (Choctaws), 1814-1816.

⁶⁵BIA, OIT, RC LS, Vol. D, 1816-1818. Thomas L. McKenney, Georgetown, to Gaines, May 30, 1816.

⁶⁶BIA, OIT, RC LS, Vol. D, 1816-1818. McKenney to Gaines, Dec. 2, 1816.

But as it happened the Indian commissioners used only a small amount of the hoped-for order. McKenney expresses his feelings to Gaines in a letter, "I did hope that the late order on the factory for the presents distributed at the treaty with the Choctaws, would have cleansed your Factory. I supposed you furnished whatever goods you had on hand that were suitable for the occasion."⁶⁷

Gaines, in the fall of 1816, appears to have applied for the position of postmaster at the Choctaw Trading House. Whether he actually applied or not, he was appointed to that post by the Postmaster General Return J. Meigs.⁶⁸ McKenney wrote his congratulations to Gaines in these words, "I have received an answer from Mr. Meigs in which he informs—'Geo. S. Gaines, Esq. is appointed Post master at the Choctaw Trading House.' I am gratified at this arrangement, because it will afford a direct means of communication between the Trading House and this office, which I need hardly say is important to be kept up."⁶⁹

Just how long Gaines held the postmastership is not known but evidently the post office at the Trading House did not produce enough business, for by 1820 the factory no longer possessed such a convenience. McKenney in 1820 wrote to the Postmaster General asking that a post office be reopened at the Trading House, but this was refused.⁷⁰ At this time the nearest post office was some thirty miles away.⁷¹

In the summer of 1817, prospects were very bright for the continued success of the factory. McKenney sent an order of goods amounting to \$17,573.32 in August of 1817 and remarked that this well assorted supply will "enable you to put down all opposition from private traders."⁷²

The Choctaw factory at its new location increased its business rather steadily. The total amount of goods on hand on December 31, 1817 was valued at \$22,283.10. Other assets raised this to an overall total of \$44,-

⁶⁷*ibid.*

⁶⁸BIA, OIT. RC LS, Vol. D, 1816-1818. McKenney to Gaines, Nov. 2, 1816.

⁶⁹*ibid.*

⁷⁰BIA, OIT. RC LS, Vol. E, 1818-1820. McKenney to Postmaster General, July 18, 1820.

⁷¹*ibid.*

⁷²McKenney to Gaines, Aug. 6, 1817. Record Copies, Letters Sent, v. D., 1816-1818., p. 387.

011.11.⁷³ The breakdown of this is as follows: merchandise \$22,283.10; peltry and other produce, \$1,056.54; cash, \$749.18; bills receivable \$518.09; debts due \$15,770.14; factory buildings, \$2,828.18; boats and other contingent articles, \$805.87.⁷⁴ The debts were considerably high, but the spring trading season reduced the total to near \$10,000.⁷⁵

The inventory of the furs and peltry on hand at the factory on December 31, 1817, shows that the deer skins still predominated with only a scattering of other items. The list includes the following:

"952 deer skins	2312 lbs. @ 20c	\$462.40
17 dressed deer skins		9.47
20 cow hides	@ 1.50	30.00
13 beaver skins	19¾ lbs. @ 1.50	29.63
4 otter skins	@ 2	8.00
48 fox skins	@28	13.44
41 coon skins	@15	6.15
13 cat skins	@25	3.25
2 bear skins	@ 1.50	3.00
3¼ lb. tobacco		.44
52½ lbs. beeswax	@25	13.13
51 lb. tallow	@ .13	6.63
369 bushel corn	@ 1.00	369.00
3 bushel peas	@ 1.25	3.75
		<hr/>
		\$958.29 ⁷⁶

Business continued good at the factory during 1818. Another large shipment of goods was sent by McKenney in October, amounting to 83 packages and valued at \$13,722.69.⁷⁷

As in most other instances where a factory was located on a navigable river, a boat or barge was owned by the establishment and was used to transport goods to the factory from a nearby seaport and bring out the

⁷³Inventory of Merchandise on hand, Dec. 31, 1817. Fort Confederation, 1817-1818. Folder marked July to December, 1817. BIA, OIT.

⁷⁴ibid.

⁷⁵Inventory of Merchandise on hand, March 31, 1818. Fort Confederation, 1817-1818. Folder marked January to March, 1818. BIA, OIT.

⁷⁶Inventory of Merchandise on hand, Dec. 31, 1817. op. cit.

⁷⁷McKenney to Gaines, Oct. 10, 1818. Record Copies, Letters Sent, v. D, 1816-1818.

furs and peltries that were to be shipped to the East. When the Choctaw factory was established at St. Stephens the means of transporting goods was done by sea going vessels and wagons, but with the factory moved further up the Tombigbee an overland journey with wagons was too expensive and so it became necessary to use barges or keel boats. During the spring of 1816, Gaines began the construction of a large keel boat for the use of the factory and a smaller one to be used in bringing up goods used for the Indian treaty held with the Choctaws in the fall of 1816.⁷⁸

Gaines has left very excellent account sheets of the total amount of lumber used, the different types of woods used as white oak planks, cypress planks, cedar, mulberry and sassafras timbers. Also shown are the total hours worked by the laborers and the type of work performed by each. The wages appeared to be very low. A Peter Johnson received seven dollars plus a daily gill of whiskey for 70 days of labor! Johnson was one of the soldiers assigned to help Gaines in such work, and as such received only ten cents per day. A carpenter employed to help the soldiers had to be paid \$23 a month. The total expenses incurred in building the two barges amounted to \$623.57; and the time taken was well over six months. In his account sheet Gaines has written a good description of the two boats.⁷⁹

Gaines even chose appropriate titles for his boats as shown herewith. His description follows:

"Young Chaktaw: A barge 28 foot keel, 8 foot 4 inches beam. Timbers cedar and mulberry, bottom plank white oak, side plank cedar, burthen about three tons. Good oars and poles with sockets and hooks. This boat was built for the express purpose of bringing up the treaty goods last fall.

General Pooshemuttaha: A barge 54 foot keel and 12 foot 4 inches beam, timbers cedar, mulberry and sassafras, bottom planks white oak, side planks cypress. Neatly covered with planks, she is built very flat and draws when loaded about 18 inches water. Her burthen is about 14 tons or 150 barrels merchandise. She is well furnished with oars, socket poles, hooks and jams."⁸⁰

⁷⁸A descriptive Account of the Factory Boats by Gaines, 1817. Fort Confederation, 1817-1818, Folder Marked July-December, 1817. BIA, OIT.

⁷⁹ibid.

There is an interesting account by Gaines of the expenses incurred in paying men to operate the boats.

The small boat, the Young Chaktaw, was sent down the river in September 1817 with a cargo and made the trip down and back to St. Stephens in 21 days. The total expenses for the men's salaries and provisions amounted to \$104.99. On November 12th, the larger boat, the General Pooshemuttaha, with a heavy load of furs and peltries was sent down to St. Stephens but while on its return trip the boat sprang a leak and a delay of several weeks took place. This trip lasted 49 days and cost some \$480. The patroon of the boat received \$72, three white helpers were paid \$153.50 in salaries; two negroes and one Indian were given \$96 together. Provisions for the boat cost \$125.⁸¹ This gives some idea of the expenses of transportation even in the back country of central Alabama territory.

The factory barges were used only for a few years; John Hersey, the successor to Gaines in 1819, did not care to use them and preferred to use private haulers to bring up his goods from Mobile. He sent the barges to Mobile to be sold there, but before they could be sold they were wrecked in a storm there. The following affidavit tells the story:

"Certificate of the loss of a barge belonging to the Chacklaw Factory
March 9, 1821:

This is to certify that in February 1820, John Hersey, U. S. Factory for the Chaktaw Trading House left with Mr. J. Doughty (Merchant of Mobile) a barge, the property of the United States with instructions to sell the same, but a few months afterwards the barge was, (I believe by a violant wind) driven from the wharf and wrecked on the beach.

Signed triplicate

Mobile, Feb. 14, 1821

Richard Ryden."⁸²

⁸⁰ibid.

⁸¹Account of the charges on Merchandise paid . . . the Quarter ending 31 Dec. 1817. Fort Confederation, 1817-1818. Folder marked, July-December, 1817. BIA, OIT.

⁸²Certificate of the Loss of a Barge . . . March 9, 1821. Fort Confederation, 1819-1825. Folder marked, 1821-1825. BIA, OIT.

During 1820 and 1821 his accounts show that he regularly used shippers from Mobile to haul up the factory goods.

During the summer of 1818, Gaines expressed to McKenney his consideration of resigning his factorship and becoming cashier at a bank at St. Stephens. McKenney wrote him to consider well such a change and asked him to remain on as U. S. Factor, mentioning his knowledge of Indian affairs and the good he could do his government in continuing as factor. But Gaines evidently made a definite decision as it is noticed in a letter McKenney wrote to him dated October 12, 1818, that his resignation had been received and would be accepted reluctantly.⁸³

Thomas Malone, assistant factor with Gaines since 1806, had resigned his position at the end of 1816 and a Benjamin Everett was appointed in his place.⁸⁴ Following Gaines' resignation, Everett kept care of the factory until a successor to Gaines was appointed.

From the correspondence of McKenney with Everett and Gaines during the year following Gaines' resignation, it is apparent that Gaines did not have on hand all the cash his books said he did and when McKenney asked for an accounting, Gaines began to disclaim any such indebtedness. McKenney wrote that Gaines owed the factory account almost \$4,000. Thereupon a lengthy agitation developed between the two, with Gaines making small payments but never the total amount that McKenney claimed he owed. One point of dispute was the fact that Gaines continued to keep the factory books and drew his factor's salary for months following his resignation and this McKenney refused to allow him, since he said that when he resigned on August 3, 1818 his salary stopped as of that day.

McKenney's accounts of Gaines' debts to the factory were made known to him in a letter of January 15, 1820 and were as follows:

"Balance of cash on hand (as of 12/31/1818)	\$3753.19
of which you paid Mr. Everett	\$ 170

⁸³McKenney to Gaines, Oct. 12, 1818. Record Copies, Letters Sent, v. D., 1818-1820. pp. 149, 150.

⁸⁴McKenney to Gaines, Dec. 21, 1816. Record Copies, Letters Sent, v. D., 1816-1818. p. 188.

of which you furnished 100 bu. salt	170	
of which you remitted pr. G. Graham	650	
of which you remitted pr. Col. McKee	1000	1990.00
		<hr/>
		\$1763.19 ⁸⁵

John Hersey was the new factor appointed for Choctaw and McKenney wrote Gaines to pay up his old account to him.

Arriving at his new post in the spring of 1820, Hersey commenced his job of trading with the Indians but since he was so sincere in carrying out his instructions from McKenney to raise the price of goods he was received very unfavorably by the Indians. In a letter to McKenney Hersey says, "On my arrival here a number of circumstances combined to prejudice the minds of the Indians against me—I found the persons conducting the business here, selling some goods at very little above cost, (because, they said the article never had sold higher) I was bound as well by a regard for the interest of the United States, as by my instructions to raise the price of several of the most important articles. I was soon after informed by you that I must raise the price of goods, or reduce the price of peltry 25%—the latter for reasons assigned, and approved by you, I adopted. This alone was sufficient to impress the Indians with a very unfavorable opinion of me."⁸⁶ Another reason was the large amount of Indian debts existing then at the Choctaw factory. With the new factor it was feared by the Indians that the goods of their annuities would be forfeited to pay these debts or that their lands would be taken from them.⁸⁷

During the last years of its existence, the factory continued to expand its business. One of the items that kept its profits down considerably was a rather long list of debtors. Nearly one-third of the assets listed were debts due from Indians, some of which were of very long standing and there could be little hope of ever collecting most of them.

The account for January 1, 1821, lists the following assets:

⁸⁵McKenney to Gaines, January 15, 1820. Record Copies, Letters Sent, v. D, 1818-1820.

⁸⁶John Hersey, Choctaw, to T. L. McKenney, October 30, 1820. Office of Indian Trade, 1817, 1824. Folder Marked: Letters Received, 1820. BIA, OIT.

⁸⁷ibid.

"Merchandise	\$20,783.29
Peltry and other produce	3,892.82
Cash	456.93
Bills Receivable	26.13
A Cart & Oxen	90.00
Factory Buildings	2,990.14
Debts due to the house	13,095.14
	<hr/>
	\$41,334.45" ⁸⁸

The account of January 1, 1822 shows an increase of nearly \$6,000—it follows:

"Merchandise	\$21,396.69
Peltry and other produce	6,574.61
Cash	,2276.80
Bills Receivable	165.38
A Cart & Oxen	90.00
Factory Buildings	2,990.14
Debts due the house	13,529.91
	<hr/>
	\$47,023.53" ⁸⁹

When the law abolishing the factory system was passed by Congress and signed on May 6, 1822 by President Monroe, the Choctaw Trading House was ordered to close its doors to the Indians and end its business. John Hersey during the late summer was replaced as agent by one Henry Randall, who was sent from Washington to be in charge of winding up the affairs of the factory. Hersey remained on the factory payroll until October 1st when Randall formally took over complete charge. Randall signed a paper showing the total assets of the factory, a sum of some \$48,000.⁹⁰

"Abstract of property of various kinds received by Henry Randall

⁸⁸BIA, OIT. Account Sheet for January 1, 1821. Fort Confederation, 1821-1825.

⁸⁹BIA, OIT. Account Sheet for January 1, 1822. Fort Confederation, 1821-1825.

⁹⁰BIA, OIT. Office of Indian Trade, 1817-1824. Folder, 1822. Statement of Merchandise Handed Over from John Hersey to Henry Randall, Oct. 1, 1822.

Agent for winding up the concerns of the Choctaw Factory as per his receipt to John Hersey, late Factor, dated the 1st of October 1822.

Merchandise	\$16,451.11
Peltry and other produce	12,400.00
Debts due	12,702.48
Bills Receivable	257.83
Cash	3,814.23
Factory Buildings	2,990.14
	<hr/>
	\$48,615.78 ⁹¹

Few of the \$12,000 worth of debts were ever collected. Almost two years later Randall had been able to take in \$4,940 in cash in closing out the factory business.⁹²

(Attention is called to the many references in the above pages to the Choctaw Trading House at "Fort St. Stephen" and to "St. Stephens" and to apparent errors of the author in his citations but in view of the fact that his data is from the original sources it is evident that these conflicting references must have appeared that way in the original. Ed.)

⁹¹ibid.

⁹²BIA, OIT. Office of Indian Trade, 1817-1824. Folder, 1822. Statement Exhibiting the Amount . . . of Cash Payments . . . into the Treasury.